

TERROR

ORIGINAL EC COMICS FROM THE 1950s!



NO. 11
MAR

TALES



200
27¢
CANADA

FROM THE

CRYPT



FEATURING...



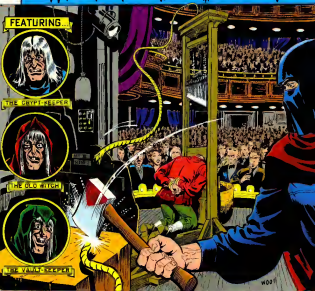
THE CRYPT-KEEPER



THE OLD WITCH



THE VODOO MAN



THE CRYPT OF TERROR

HEH, HEH! SO YOU'RE BACK FOR MORE, EH? SO YOU LIKE HORROR STORIES, EH? WELL, I'VE GOT A LITTLE TALE ABOUT PEOPLE WHO LIKE HORROR THAT WILL WARM YOUR COLD HEARTS! YES, IT'S ME... THE CRYPT-KEEPER... YOUR HOST IN THE CRYPT OF TERROR! COME IN! JUST DRAG OVER THAT BUNLAP BAG AND SIT DOWN! IT'S WIDE AND SOFT! THE CORPSE IN IT ISN'T QUITE STIFF YET! COMFY! GOOD? NOW LISTEN TO THE TERROR-TALE I TELL.

WELL-COOKED HAMS!



THE HUNCHBACK COWERED BEFORE THE RED-HOT STOVE, A BOTTLE OF ACID RAISED MEANWILE IN HIS WARTY HAND! THE SHAGGY-HAIRED UGLY MAN MOVED TOWARD THE TERRORIZED HUNCHBACK, REACHING FOR HIS NECK...

I'M GOING TO CHOP YOU, YOU TWISTED LITTLE MONSTER!

KEEP AWAY FROM ME! THIS IS ACID I HAVE! IF YOU RASHON ME, I'LL...



THE WILD LOOKING MAN'S STONE FINGERS CLOSED ON THE HUNCHBACK'S THROAT! SUDDENLY HE SCREAMED IN PAIN! THE HUNCHBACK HAD FLUNG THE CONTENTS OF THE ACID BOTTLE INTO HIS FACE...



SHRIeking HISTERICALLY, THE SHAGGY ONE FLUNG THE HUNCHBACK FACE DOWN UPON THE BLOWING TOP OF THE RED-HOT STOVE! THE HUNCHBACK HOWLED! A HISsing SOUND WAS HEARD AND A CLOUD OF SMOKE AROSE FROM THE BURNING FLESH...



SUDDENLY THE ENTIRE SCENE WAS FLOTTED OUT BY A FLASH OF RED VELVET! AS THE CURTAIN CLOSED! A GASP ERUPTED FROM THE INROCKED AUDIENCE! THEN A TUMULT OF APPLAUSE EXPLODED!



THE CURTAIN PARTED AND THE HUNCHBACK STEPPED FORWARD. HIS FACE CHARRED! THEN THE SHAGGY HAIRIED MAN CAME OUT, HIS FACE HORRIBLY DISFIGURED BY THE ACID BURNS! THEY BOWED TO THE CHEERING PLAY-GOERS...



AS THE ENTHUSIASTIC CROWD MOVED TOWARD THE EXITS, BABBLING... TWO AMERICANS REMAINED IN THEIR SEATS...

FRANKMOROS, MILES! THE MOST AMAZING DISPLAY OF HORROR I HAVE EVER SEEN!



THE TWO MEN STARED UP AT THE RED-VELVET DRAWN CURTAIN...

I WANTED YOU TO SEE IT! I KNEW YOU'D LIKE IT! DO YOU THINK THEY'D GO FOR IT BACK IN THE UNITED STATES?

ARE PARISHANS ANY DIFFERENT THAN NEW YORKERS, MILES? WOULD-NAH WOULD-NAH GO MAD OVER THIS STUFF!



THERE'S ONLY ONE THING, ARTHUR! THE HORROR EFFECTS OF THE BRAND BURNING! AND ALL CLOSELY GUARDED SECRETS!

I'M SURE WE CAN MAKE A DEAL WITH THEM, MILES! O-H-O-H! HERE COMES MRS. B. WATER. THE OWNER!



THE TALL, GAUNT, PALEFACED FRENCHMAN APPROACHED THE TWO AMERICANS.

I BELIEVE YOU ARE THE TWO AMERICANS WHO CALLED ME?

THAT'S RIGHT, M'SIEU MATIER! I AM MILES ANDISH, AND THIS IS ARTHUR MACK!



COME INTO MY OFFICE, GENTLEMEN! YOU SAW THE PERFORMANCE?

YES! WE DID!
IT WAS TERRIFIC!



THE THEATER OWNER LED THE TWO MEN INTO A SMALL OFFICE AND MOTIONED THEM TO BE SEATED.

I AM GLAD YOU LIKED IT, GENTLEMEN! NOW, WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?

WE WOULD LIKE TO PRODUCE THE GRAND GUENOL'S PLAYS IN AMERICA!



DON'T YOU THINK THE GRAND GUENOL WILL BE AS SUCCESSFUL IN AMERICA AS IT IS HERE IN PARIS?

WE'RE SURE OF IT! HORROR IS SWEEPING THE COUNTRY BACK THERE! THEY EVER HAVE IT IN COMED BOOKS?



I AM SORRY, GENTLEMEN! I DO NOT THINK WE CAN DO BUSINESS! IT IS IMPOSSIBLE!

WE CAN OFFER YOU A GOOD PRICE, M'SIEU MATIER! WHAT IS YOUR OBJECTION?



THE GRAND GUENOL WAS STARTED BY MY FATHER, PIERRE MATIER! THE METHODS WE USE IN PRODUCING THE HORRIBLE EFFECTS IN OUR PLAY WERE INVENTED BY HIM, AND HAVE BEEN JEALOUSLY GUARDED EVER SINCE! ONLY I KNOW THEM! EVEN THE ACTORS HERE DO NOT KNOW HOW THEY ARE DONE!

AND THE SECRETS ARE ALL IN YOUR HEAD, M'SIEU?



OH, NO! REMEMBERING THEM WOULD BE MUCH TOO DIFFICULT! NO! THEY ARE ALL WRITTEN DOWN IN A MANUSCRIPT WHICH I KEEP IN THAT SAFE! NOW, IF YOU WILL EXCUSE ME, THE NIGHT'S RECEIPTS AWAIT!

ER, YES! WELL, THANK YOU ANYWAY, M'SIEU! I'M SORRY YOU WILL NOT CONSIDER OUR OFFER! BOB GOIN'!



THE TWO AMERICANS LEFT THE THEATER AND MOVED DOWN THE NARROW TWISTING ALLEY IN THE MONTMARTRE SECTION OF PARIS WHERE THE GRAND BURGUNDIAL THEATER IS LOCATED...

WELL, MILES? WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

STARTED FRENCHMEN? YOU CAN'T TALK SENSE TO THEM! THEY'RE ALL SO DAMN SENTIMENTAL!



YOU REALLY CAN'T BLAME HIM MILES? IF I WERE IN HIS SHOES, I'D DO THE SAME THING! YOU COULDN'T MAKE ME SHUT UP THOSE SECRETS!

OH, COULDN'T IT WHAT WOULD STOP ME FROM TELLING YOU FOR THEM?



SUDDENLY, THE TWO MEN STOPPED! THEY STOOD BENEATH THE STREET LAMPSTEMS AT EACH OTHER.

ARE YOU THINKING OUR PLAN LEAVES IN THE MIDDLE? WE'D BE FAR AWAY BEFORE ANYONE FOUND HIM?



THE AMERICANS TURNED AROUND AND HEADED BACK TO THE BUS CATCHAL...TO THE GRAND BURGUNDIAL...

HE WAS A FOOL FOR TELLING US ABOUT THAT MANUSCRIPT! SORRY! HE SAID SOMETHING ABOUT THE MAN'S ACCEPTS! PERHAPS WE CAN GET THERE IN TIME!



OUTSIDE THE OFFICE OF THE GRAND BURGUNDIAL, MILES AND ARNOLD REGITATED... THEN SLOWLY OPENED THE DOOR! INSIDE, MONSIEUR MATIER WAS STOPPING BEFORE THE SAFE.



MONSIEUR MATIER PLACED THE METAL BOX INTO THE SAFE BEHIND THE VOLUME MARKED 'HIERRE MATIER, METHODS' TWO SHADOWS MOVED TOWARD HIM! HE TURNED, WIDE-EYES.



THE GUN EXPLODED IN HIS FACE! HE SLUMPED TO THE FLOOR! A HAND REACHED OUT AND REMOVED THE MANUSCRIPT FROM THE SAFE.



THE NEXT MORNING, AT LE BOURGET AIRPORT JUST OUTSIDE PARIS, MILES BROWN AND ARTHUR WACK BOARDED A TRANSATLANTIC CONSTELLATION! MILES CLUTCHED THE PREVIOUS MANUSCRIPT UNDER HIS ARM!



I WONDER IF THEY'VE STARTED
FOUND HIS BODY YET?

SHUT UP
YOU FOOL!

UNES

AND AS THE GIANT AIRLINER ROSE GENTLY INTO THE SKY ABOVE FRANCE, IN THE OFFICE OF THE GRAND COMMISSAIRE THEATRE IN LE RUE CHATEAU, MONTMARTE...



EEEEEEEEEK!

WHILE ON THE PLANE

IT'S ALL HERE, MILES! EVERYTHING FLOOR!

SO THAT'S
HOW THEY
MAKE THE
BLOOD POUR
OUT OF THE
WOUND!



YES! AND LOOK HERE! THE STABBING SCENE! A DETAILED DRAWING OF HOW THE KNIFE IS CONSTRUCTED!

THERE'S THE EYE-SCORCHING ACT! WELL, I'LL BE!



HERE! ON THIS PAGE! THE AGG AND RED-HOT STOVE ILLUMINATION!

WE'RE SET, ARTHUR! WE'LL KNOW 'EM DEAD ON BROADCAST!



BUT WE'VE GOT TO KEEP ALL THIS A SECRET, MILES! NO ONE ELSE MUST EVER KNOW HOW THESE HORROR EFFECTS ARE PRODUCED!

WE MUSTN'T TAKE THE CHARGE OF LETTING THIS ROCK OUT OF OUR HANDS!



LISTEN! WE'RE BOTH ACTORS! WE'VE MEMORIZED WHOLE SCRIPTS BEFORE! WE'LL MEMORIZE THIS MANUSCRIPT AND THEN DESTROY IT!

GOOD IDEA! THEN WE WON'T LEAVE OURSELVES OPEN TO THE KIND OF THING POOR M'HEU WAYNE DID!



AND SO, WHEN THE TRANSATLANTIC AIRLINER LANDED AT IDLEWILD AIRPORT IN NEW YORK CITY...

YOU GO TO YOUR HOTEL ROOM AND START MEMORIZING THE MANUSCRIPT, ARTHUR! I'LL SEE ABOUT HIRING A THEATER!

RIGHT! GOOD LUCK!



WHILE, BACK IN PARIS...

WHAT DOES IT SAY, CHARLES?

IT SAYS 'CLOSED BECAUSE OF DEATH OF OWNER' AH? THAT IS TOO BAD, EH?



A WEEK LATER, IN NEW YORK...

WELL, ARTHUR! I'VE FINISHED MEMORIZING NOW THE MANUSCRIPT, TOO!

GOOD! LET'S DESTROY IT... TOGETHER!



THE MANUSCRIPT OF PIERRE MATIER WAS THROWN INTO THE FIRE, AND THE TWO MEN WATCHED THE LEAPING FLAMES REDUCE IT TO BLACK ASHES...

WELL THAT DOES AND WE IT, ARTHUR! NOW OPEN IN THE GRAND GUN-NOL'S SECRETS ARE OURS ALONE!



WHILE IN PARIS, AT THE POLICE MORGUE...

BORE! MATIER'S BODY HAS BEEN STOLEN!

NON! DIENT!



IN NEW YORK, ADVANCED PUBLICITY ON THE OPENING OF THE **BACK-AROUND HORROR THEATER** BROUGHT LINES OF PEOPLE TO THE BOX OFFICE...

I'VE READ ABOUT THE GRAND GUN-NOL IN PARIS!

THEY SAY THIS WILL BE FAR MORE HORRIBLE!

THEY'RE SOLD OUT FIVE WEEKS IN ADVANCE!



AND THEN, THE NIGHT OF THE PREMIER PERFORMANCE ROLLED AROUND! IN A DRESSING ROOM, ARTHUR AND MILES RERIOUSLY APPLIED THEIR MAKE-UP...

REMEMBER, ARTHUR! WHEN I THROW THE ACID IN YOUR FACE... SCREAM!

DON'T WORRY! AND WHEN I PLURGE YOUR FACE ON THE RED-HOT STOVE... YOU LET OUT A BLOOD-CURDLER, TOO!



THE AUDIENCE FILLED EVERY AVAILABLE SEAT! STANDING ROOM WAS SOLD OUT! THE THEATRE WAS FILLED TO CAPACITY! FINALLY, THE CURTAIN WENT UP AND THE PERFORMANCE BEGAN.



“UHP! OUCH! HOW HORRIBLE!”

ARTHUR AND MILES STOOD IN THE ROWS, WATCHING... ARTHUR GRESSED AS THE SHABBY THROTTLE, AND MILES AS THE STOOPEE MUNCHBACK...



“THE AUDIENCE IS SHOCKED! WHY NOT? THEY NEVER EXPECTED THE EFFECTS TO BE SO REAL...”

THE STABBING SCENE WAS OVER! THEN CAME THE RYE-SQUING EFFECT! FINALLY...

“THERE’S OUR OUT, ARTHUR!”

“LET’S GO! GOT THAT BOTTLE WITH THE SECRET FORMULA?”



MILES DASHED OUT ONTO THE STAGE! THE AUDIENCE GASPED! ARTHUR FOLLOWED! HE RAN TOWARDS MILES, MENACINGLY...

“KEEP AWAY! KEEP AWAY!”

“I’M GOING TO CRASH YOU, YOU TWISTED LITTLE MONSTER!”



THIS IS AUGH I HAVE IN THIS BOTTLE! IF YOU TOUCH ME, I’LL...



MILES PLUNGED THE SECRET FORMULA INTO ARTHUR’S FACE! ARTHUR SCREAMED...



ARTHUR SHOVED MILES’S FACE DOWN ON THE “RED-HOT” PROP-STOVE! MILES SCREAMED, SHRIEKING HYSTERICALLY!



“PUSH! PUSH IT OUT! YOU’RE OVER-HEATING!”

“EEEEEEEEE”

THE AUDIENCE STARED IN HORROR AS THE TWO FIGURES SHRINKED IN PAIN...

IT, IT LOOKS SO REAL!

I DON'T FEEL SO GOOD!

WAIT! SOMETHING'S WRONG!



ARTHUR, HIS FACE HORRIBLY DISTORTED BY THE BURNING ACID, SUDDENLY RELEASED HIS HOLD ON MILES, WHOSE CHEEK LAY SQUEEZING AGAINST THE RED-HOT STOVE! BUT AS THE CURTAIN CLOSED, THEY CONTINUED TO SCREAM!

OWWWW! THE PAIN...

AAAAHH!

WHAT'S WRONG?



A MEMBER OF THE CAST RUSHED TO THEM! THEY LAY WRITHING ON THE STAGE.

GOOD LORD! THEIR FACES! THEY'RE REALLY BURNED!



THE ECCLAMATION CARRIED THROUGH THE DRAWN CURTAIN TO THE HORRIFIED AUDIENCE OUTSIDE...

THEY'RE DYING!

DID YOU HEAR THAT? IT WAS REAL!

MY GOD!

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!



THE PANICKY AUDIENCE RUSHED FOR THE EXITS... SHOUTING... PUSHING... SHOVING! BY MISTAKE, SOMEONE OPENED THE CURTAIN! ARTHUR AND MILES LAY PROSTRATE ON THE STAGE...

LOOK! THEY'RE DEAD!

HURRY!

STOP PUSHING! WE'LL BE TRAMPLED!



SOON, THE THEATRE WAS EMPTY! ONLY A LONG POLINE SAG IN THE DESERTED HOUSE, STANDING UP AT THE TWO DEAD MEN ON THE STAGE.



AND AS WE CLOSE IN, WE SEE THAT THE POLINE IS JARLING AS HE STARES UP AT THE STAGE WITH GLAZED EYES! IT IS THE COMPLEX OF MURDER MATHS.



THE END

WELL, WELL! THAT WAS A NOT DARE, EH? I HOPE YOU LIKED THE PERFORMANCE! THE STORY CERTAINLY HAD A SHOCKING CLIMAX, EH? ARTHUR AND MILES WERE ALL BURNED UP ABOUT IT! TOO BAD THEY DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE TO SAVE FACE! YOU CAN SAVE BACK ISSUES! IF MY MAD MAN, THAT IS! READ MY COLUMN.



THE CRYPT-KEEPER'S CORNER FOR INFO ON HOW TO GET FURRY! AND NOW, WHY NOT TURN TO THE CRYPT-KEEPER FOR ANOTHER HARMING TALE!

THE VAULT OF HORROR!

HEY, HEY! SO, IT'S MY TURN TO ENTERTAIN YOU NOW, EMT BOOBY! I'VE BEEN WAITING! COME INTO THE VAULT OF HORROR! I AM YOUR HOST, FINE PAUL FREEMER! I'VE JUST PAINTED THAT CARPET WITH BLOOD, SO GET DOWN ON IT! THEN YOU WON'T HIT THE CEILING WHEN I TELL YOU THE BLOOD-CURLING TALE I CALL...

MADAM BLUEBEARD



FOR THE BEGINNING OF OUR STORY, LET'S LOOK IN ON A PATHETIC SCENE. A FUNERAL... IN A CEMETERY. AS THE GROUP OF BLACK-CLAD MOURNERS BATHED IN THE SOBBING WIDOW WAIL... THE COFFIN OF THE RECENTLY DECEASED IS LOWERED INTO THE YAWNING BLACK PIT! SAD, ISN'T IT? FEEL SORRY FOR THE POOR WIDOW? DON'T! NOTICE THE HEAT LINE OF GRAVES BEHIND THE NEW ONE? COUNT THEM! YES, THERE ARE 50 OTHERS! THIS POOR WOMAN IS BURYING HER SEVENTH HUSBAND! IS THERE ANY WONDER I'VE CHRISTENED HER 'MADAM BLUEBEARD'? AFTER ALL, SHE KILLED THEM ALL...



POOR WOMAN! I DON'T SEE HOW SHE'S HOOKED UP UNDER THESE EMOTIONAL SHOOTS!

SEVEN HUSBANDS IN SEVEN YEARS.

ALL ACCIDENTALLY KILLED!

OH, YEA! THAT'S WHAT EVERYONE BELIEVES! THAT TERESA'S SEVEN HUSBANDS ALL DIED ACCIDENTALLY! EVEN HER HUSBANDS BELIEVED IT. THAT IS, ALL EXCEPT FREDDY. THE ONE THEY'RE BURNING NOW! HE KNOWS DIFFERENT! OR I SHOULD SAY 'KNOWN' DIFFERENT! AH, BUT I'M GETTING AHEAD OF MY STORY...

WHY IF I DIDN'T THINK TERESA WAS A JOKE... I'D MARRY HER MYSELF! BUT I'D PROBABLY END UP LIKE ALL THE OTHERS... IN SOME FREAK ACCIDENT!

THE OTHERS? HOW DID THEY DIE?

'WELL, LET'S SEE! EARL WAS HER FIRST! IT HAPPENED ABOUT THREE MONTHS AFTER THEY WERE MARRIED! EARL HAD PROBABLY FALLEN ASLEEP WHILE FISHING! HIS BOAT DRIFTED INTO THE RAPIDS AND HE WAS KILLED SOME OVER THE FALLS...

'FOUR! FOUR! THAT'S A GIRL! LAUGH! SHE'S LOADED! HER SEVEN HUSBANDS' ESTATES AMOUNT TO A TIDY SUM! WHY...



'HOWARD, TERESA'S SECOND, FELL OFF A CLIFF WHILE THEY WERE HONEYMOONING IN A TRAILER...

'DOUGLAS, NUMBER THREE, WAS KILLED ON A HUNTING TRIP! HIS GUN EXPLODED IN HIS FACE...



'NEAL, THE FOURTH, FELL FROM HIS OFFICE WINDOW... FOURTEEN STORIES'

'WARREN, TERESA'S FIFTH, WAS KILLED WHEN THEIR CAR WAS STRUCK BY A TRAIN! TERESA WAS THROWN CLEAR AND SUFFERED ONLY MILD BRUISES.'



THEN PETER, HUSBAND NUMBER SIX, WAS ELECTROCUTED WHILE TAKING A BATH! A RADIO HE WAS LISTENING TO FELL INTO THE TUB OF WATER.



SEE WHAT I MEAN? SEE HOW THEY ALL BELIEVE THE DEATHS WERE ACCIDENTS? ACCIDENTS, MY BLOODSHOT EYE! THEY WERE EACH COLD, CALCULATED MURDER! TAKE FROM EARL'S DEATH, FOR INSTANCE.



AND BOBGLAS, HUSBAND NUMBER THREE, MET HIS UNTIMELY FATE BECAUSE AFTER CLEANING HIS GUN, HE LEFT IT AROUND WHERE TERESA COULD GET AT IT! SHE POUNDED MORTEN LEAD INTO THE BARREL, BLOTTING IT UP.



AND, OF COURSE YOU KNOW HOW POOR FREDDY WAS KILLED!

YES! WELL! TERESA'S LEAVING! I GUESS IT'S ALL OVER! COMING?



OH, SURE EARL FELL ASLEEP WHILE FISHING! BUT HE FISHED ABOUT THE RAPIDS AND THE FALLS DOWNSTREAM, SO HE WAS VERY CAREFUL TO TIE UP THE BOAT TO AN OVERHANGING BOUGH BEFORE TAKING HIS SHOOTIE! ONLY



AND AS FOR HOWARD, WELL, HE WAS INSIDE THE TRAILER WHEN TERESA STOPPED IT AT THE CLIFF EDGE! WHEN SHE SCREAMED, HOWARD CAME OUT OF THE TRAILER DOOR FULL-SPEED.



NEAL, HUSBAND FOUR, WAS LEANING OUT OF HIS OFFICE WINDOW, LOOKING FOR THE NEW CADILLAC TERESA CLAIMED WAS PARKED BELOW, WHEN TERESA THUNKED THE SCATTER HUG OUT FROM BENEATH HIS FEET!



AS FOR WARREN, HUSBAND FIVE? HE'D MADE THE MISTAKE OF FALLING ASLEEP WHILE TERESA WAS DRIVING HOME FROM A PARTY! SHE'D JUST STOPPED THEIR CAR ON THE GRADE-CROSSING, STEPPED OUT, AND WAITED.



AND PETER, WHO LOVED MUSIC, ERRED WHEN HE TOOK HIS BATH WITH HIS BACK TO THE DOOR! HE NEVER SAW TERESA OPEX IT, REACH THE STICK IN, AND KNOCK THE RADIO OFF THE SHELF ABOVE THE TUB.



YES, THEY'D ALL BEEN NUMBERED! BUT THEY NEVER *KNEW* IT! ONLY *FREDDY*. TERESA'S *SEVENTH* HUSBAND. *HE KNEW*! FREDDY WAS A *FLYING* GUY. OWNED HIS OWN PLANE! HE'D HAD A RUNWAY LEVELLED AT ONE END OF TERESA'S VACAT ESTATES! EVERY DAY HE'D TAKE OFF... FLY AROUND... AND LAND.



ONE DAY, WHILE HE WAS *OFF*, TERESA STRUNG A STROGO WIRE, TAUGHT ABOUT TWO FEET HIGH, ACROSS THE RUNWAY.



AND WHEN FREDDY CAME IN FOR A LANDING...



BUT FREDDY WASN'T KILLED IN THE CRASH! WHEN HE CRAWLED FROM THE WRECKAGE, TERESA WAS FORCED TO FINISH THE JOB.



SO YOU SEE WHO I'VE CHRISTENED TERESA 'MADAM BLUEBEARD'? WHAT'S THAT YOU SAY? SHE MUST BE NOTED OF COURSE SHE'S NOTED! IT STEMS BACK TO HER CHILDHOOD... WHEN HER FATHER WALKED OUT ON TERESA AND HER MOTHER...



TERESA'S MOTHER HAD BEEN EMBITTERED BY HER HUSBAND'S LEAVING! SHE'D PASSED UP HER DAUGHTER TO ANGE MEN...

MEN ARE BEASTS, TERESA! THEY'RE NOTHING BUT ANIMALS! YES, MOTHER!



ALL OF HER LIFE SHE'D BEEN TAUGHT

MONEY? THAT'S ALL THEY'RE GOOD FOR! THE BEASTS!

YES, MOTHER!



UNTIL IT BECAME LOGICAL IN TERESA'S WARPED MIND THAT...

MEN ARE BEASTS! WILD BEASTS! WILD BEASTS MUST BE DESTROYED!



AND SO, ON THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF HER MOTHER'S DEATH, EARL, TERESA'S FIRST HUSBAND, LAY IN HIS GRAVE? TERESA CAME AND LAID A WREATH ON IT IN HER MOTHER'S HONOR...



THEN, WHEN TERESA'S MOTHER DIED ON A COLD DAY IN NOVEMBER...

I'LL AVENGE YOUR DEATH, MOTHER! YOU SHALL SEE! THEY'LL PAY FOR THIS! THE BEASTS!



AND ON THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF HER MOTHER'S PASSING, THERE WERE TWO GRAVES TO PLACE WREATHS UPON! EARL'S... AND HOWARD, HER SECOND HUSBAND'S



YEAR AFTER YEAR, THE NEAT LITTLE ROW OF GRAVES GROW!
AND YEAR AFTER YEAR, TERESA CAME AND PLACED WREATHS
UPON THEM, IN HONOR OF HER *MOTHER*...



SIX YEARS, MOTHER!
AND SIX WREATHS.
IN YOUR MEMORY!

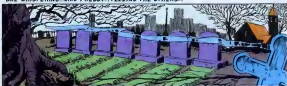
NOW THE BLACK-CLAD HOURS
ARE FADING OUT OF THE CEMETERY.
LEAVING THE SEVENTH GRAVE TO
BE FILLED IN... *FREDDY'S GRAVE!*



LET'S GET TO
WORK, HARK!

YEAH! IT'S
GETTING COLD!

AND SO THE SEVENTH GRAVE IS FILLED IN! THE NEAT LINE LIES SILENT UNDER THE GARKENING
SKY! EARL, UNDER THE FIRST! HOWARD, BENEATH THE SECOND! DOUGLAS UNDER THE THIRD
MOUND! NEAL, BELOW THE FOURTH! WARNER IN THE FIFTH! AND PETER, THE SIXTH! EACH PEACE-
FUL IN DEATH, EACH *REMARKABLE*! AND IN THE FRESH GRAVE, *FREDDY WHO KNOWS*! AND AS
THE WIND COMES UP, RUSTLING THROUGH THE BARE TREES, SWEEPING ACROSS THE GRAVE STONES,
WHISTLING PAST THE ROW OF SEVEN GRAVES, IT SEEMS TO SOUND LIKE A *WHISPER*... LIKE *SOME-
ONE WHISPERING LIKE FREDDY, TELLING THE OTHERS*...



ONE DAY, IN NOVEMBER...



I'D LIKE TO BUY
SOME WREATHS!
SEVEN OF THEM!

YES, MA'AM! SHALL I
WRAP THEM OR ARE
YOU GOING ACROSS THE
ROAD WITH THEM?



I'M GOING ACROSS THE
ROAD TO THE CEMETERY!
HOW MUCH WILL THAT
BE?

ER... FOURTEEN
DOLLARS, MA'AM!
THESE ARE HARD
TO GET THIS TIME
OF YEAR!

TERESA CROSSES THE ROAD AND ENTERS THE CEMETERY, THE SEVEN WREATHS IN HER ARMS.



FOURTEEN DOLLARS? THE BEAST.

ON OVER THE FROZEN MOUND SHE MOVES TO THE NEAT ROW OF SEVEN GRAVES...



SHE STOOPS AND PLACES A WREATH UPON EACH GRAVE.



THEN TERESA FORGES HER FACE TOWARD THE GARDENING BOY AND BEGINS TO LAUGH! BUT HER LAUGH IS CUT SHORT BY A HUMBLE BENEATH HER FEET! SHE STARES DOWN, HORRIFIED! THE SEVEN GRAVES ARE EACH CRACKING OPEN...



GOOD LORD!

THE HOTTED HAND REACHES UP FROM BENEATH THE FROZEN EARTH, GRASPING TERESA'S ANKLE IN A DEATH-LIKE GRIP! SHE CANNOT RUN! SHE CANNOT MOVE! SHE CAN ONLY WATCH, AS THE CORPSES RISE FROM THEIR GRAVES! WATCH AND SCREAM.



AND AS TERESA'S SCREAMS END IN A CHOKING COUGH, SILENCE ONCE AGAIN DESCENDS UPON THE GRAVE YARD! THE WIND WHISPERS ACROSS THE CEMETERY, CARRESSING THE NEAT LITTLE ROW OF GRAVES! ONLY NOW, THERE ARE *EIGHT* GRAVES INSTEAD OF SEVEN! AND ON THE EIGHTH GRAVE... LIE SEVEN SOLED WREATHS.



THE END

HEH, HEH! SO HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, MOTHER! THAT'S A LOVELY GIFT! THOSE *MEN-BEASTS* SAVE YOU! I HOPE YOU'RE *GRATEFUL*! OH, BY THE WAY, FIDELIS! YOU'LL BE GRATEFUL WHEN YOU RECEIVE AN ORDER OF BACK ISSUES! GET ALL OF MINE OR CRYPT OR HAUNT, OR JUST GET THEM ALL! DON'T FORGET! THE OTHER EC TITLES! TO FIND OUT MORE, READ *THE CRYPT-KEEPER'S GORNER* IN THIS ISSUE! THE OLD BUZZARD GIVES *FULL PARTICULARS*! 'SEE, NOW! REMEMBER! 'CREMATED CORPSES NEVER DIE! THEY JUST BLAZE AWAY!





THE CRYPT-KEEPER'S CORNER

President and CEO—Stephen A. Gappi

Publisher—Rene Cechman

I am writing to tell you how great your comics are. Everyone before I got to sleep I have to read one or two stories. I love your comics. You can print my address.

Orlando Garcia

1729 W Superior
Chicago, IL 60622

I want to know if you guys are going to have a fan club. I have a favorite episode from "Crypt" series, called "The House of Horrors" (and another one called "What's Cooking?"), and I want to know what issue are you going to put it in so I can purchase it. Are there going to be any special editions like Halloween annals and all that?

Phillips Sandoz

© Paso, TX

"House of Horrors" (singular) ran in CRYPT 8, get our back issue. But it ran originally in HAUNT 1; get our back issue! The house we also they ran it later. Inquire after our "Annals," they collect each title under one cover about five issues a week. —CK

A couple days ago I was looking at baseball cards and I found a card with the signature at the bottom saying "Jack Davis." Did he draw the card?

Paul O'Leary (Needham, MA)

Surely did. The card is © 1983 Sunbelt Brown. Davis does lots of advertising work. And with my son, the #11111! —CK



Is it true that your nickname is "Crypty"? I got it out of the book called "Jokes from the Crypt." I would just die and draw out my grave to get CRYPT!

Can you send me the recipe for ghoulash?

Bryan Korte

North Beach, MA

Call me later. (One part ghoul, one part hash.) —CK

I like your comics and I collect your trading cards. I watch your show every Saturday. I also watch your cartoon. I like your story "Loved to Death" and "Death of Some Salesman." I like the TV version of "People who Live in Brass Houses" and "Television Terror."

Tucker Gaylord

Oakland, CA

So how's it going in the Critical Crypt? Not much here. The in school right now and we're watching a movie about movie. I don't think anyone is really watching. I think you guys are the best thing that has ever come out of hell. I have a idea for a story. It would rule if you did a "Phantom of the Opera" story.

William Wallace

FT Wayne, IN

I will read the boards in "Top Billing," VAULT 28. And quit reading comics in class even when! —CK

You are the coolest dead person alive. I am starting my subscription to your comic. I think The Old Witch is a first brooder. The Vault-Keeper is just a pain in the ass, sometimes. But I liked his story in CRYPT and I liked your story "Drown and Quarrel." Do you like girls? (Not The Old Witch. She's not a girl.) Could you please send me CRYPT no. 2 or 3? Please, I'm begging you! Please! Send Friends For Life (Or death).

Dee Dale

Capitol, MI

You're right, The Old Witch hates hysterics. You can get any of my back issues, or any EC title. See the end of this column. —CK

I love your comics. I love them so much I could die. I am drawing up an the Crypt-Keeper and I don't know what to wear. What should I wear?

Dave Hanes

Porter, TX

When I shed my blue robes, I'm partial to a white sport coat and a pink carnation. —CK

I wish you wrote last issue but I didn't get it printed. I really liked Crypt 10 my favorite story was "Drown and Quarrel." If you print my letter, could you please send me an autographed picture of yourself? Your #1 fan & friend,

Ashley Robinson, 12

Lockhart, SC

Berry, get me water'd photos. See below. —CK

"Drown and Quarrel?" In issue #10 is the best story I've read yet! It BUREAU all the others from "Drown and The Witch" (is that underground) that is! Your best fan,

Frank Felder

Arrow, OK

I love CRYPT comics, the stories are good and scary. One of the stories I liked was "Drown and Quarrel." The comics have neat pictures, too! Why are the comics called EC comics?

Chris Fisher

Memphis, NJ

Scare everyone about "Drown" "EC" stands for "Entertaining Comics." Get out your microscope and you can read it on the cover "scare." —CK

Thanks for printing my letter in CRYPT #10, but these last two lines WEREN'T mine. You must have mixed-up my letter and someone else's. I don't even write " Tales From The Crypt-Keeper" (too juvenile). The guy who really wrote those lines is probably screaming "cause you didn't give him the credit.

I'm sure the Crypt-Keeper can come up with a suitable punishment for your Weirly yous.

Berry McGillicut

Alton, IL

You're right; that final paragraph was from the letter of Myron James, Rockville, IN. —CK

Do you know every scary story there is to know? I think you do! I want to get the talking Crypt-Keeper doll. I love scary things! Like you!

Justin Winkelman

Souls City, IA

Like-or-as?

—CK

I really enjoy reading your scary books, but you should make The Crypt-Keeper tell more stories because all the other people have their own books.

Uma Michael

Glastonbury, CT

Make-or left?

—CK

Hi I'm Tony Martinez, a big fan. But you can call me "Steak"! Tony, I am a faithful reader of CRYPT, VAULT and HALINT. I can read them over and over, and never tire.

By the way, I would love to receive letters from other EC fans from around the world, so please print my address. Any fan can write to me in Spanish, English, Italian, or French. I'll enjoy it a lot, since I like foreign languages.

Thanks for listening, OK, off buddy. I have to go brush my teeth, drink a glass of blood, and hop into the coffin. So, sweet nightmares!

Tony Martinez, age 17

6041 S California Av
Chicago, IL 60629

Recently I got the [hardback] Complete CRYPT and in several issues it stated that there were photos of the three Ghoul-Ladies. I was writing to see if those photos are still available, and if so, how much do they cost? Your fan,

Adam Owens

address unknown

I have a few questions for you... could you get The Y.K. out of my mag? Could Mr. Cochran reprint the 1950s photos of the Ghoul-Ladies? Will the Pre-Trend and New Direction comics, as well as PARO and MAD, be reprinted in regular format? I would like to have a pen-pal so please print my full address. Your pal,

John Brown

POB 1201
Hartman, TN 37746

That's what it would take to offer photos [the Adam Owens and Ashley Robinson, see above] talk about—reprinting the 1950s photos. Maybe we will. Some other EC comic titles are scheduled for this series, no maybe to it!

—CK

I'm collecting your comics. I've also getting VAULT and HALINT. I couldn't choose just one, they're all great. Do you like being the Crypt-Keeper? Your scary fan,

Cassie Meeks

Peetles, OH

Best unemployment?

—CK

I just wanted to tell you dudes that the stupid "being story in issue 7 by The Vault-Keeper, "Wooden Death!", was dumb. But don't worry, because I think he made up for it in issue 8 [with] "Lady, You're Not Yourself Today!", that story was cool! Please print my address.

Joshua Keane, 12

31 Budd St
Mount Holly, NJ 08060

Best VR can hope for: To break even!

—CK

I love your mag! I have seen all of your shows. I am going to get all of the EC CLASSICS. I love CRYPT 6. I like the tale "Scared To Death!"

I looked in my video store. I cannot find the "Tales from the Crypt" movie. Maybe you could tell me where I can get a copy of it. And do you make more than 6 RCP 64-page EOs?

Patrick Burke!!

Tampa, FL

There were 7 issues of RCP CRYPT, and 8 each of RCP VAULT and HALINT. All still available. Write for list and please! Buy, read, talk, have!

—CK

I just got my copy of CRYPT 6, and I see you printed my letter. And you've done a little editing. And I think you made a mistake! You left [redacted] last name printed. Did you do that on purpose or accident?

And I think [redacted] has a point! Please print my [new] address.

Jason Parker

6783 Davis Rd
Riverside, SC 29470

I did it [redacted]. On purpose.

—CK

I am your funny fan that lives in the gutter. I like your comics but they are hard to come by. I'm 11 years old. How old are you? I watch you on tv also. I like you better than the Vault-Keeper and the Old Witch. Could you tell me where I can get a lot of your comics because the stores are always out of comics? What is your phone number? Your fan,

Bobby Harris, 11

Baton Rouge, LA

Funny you should ask. You can get our comics from us direct, and our phone number is 1-800-EC-CRYPT.

—CK

I am a 14 year old girl and I want to know why there isn't more gore in your comics. I think it's because of the children who can't sleep with the sight of blood, of course you don't want to give the poor babies nightmares.

I guess what I'm trying to say is it's ok to put more violence in your comics. If those pansy parents and children can't stand it, let them cry about it. Your readers and real fans are here to support you. Like the saying goes if you can't take the heat stay out of the incinerator.

Santolina Arnold

Atlanta, GA

Why is it that in most of your tales you never show the faces of the hell-evil bodied? I would also like to know if you could make the stories more scary. When I say more scary I mean make them similar to the TV series on HBO. I love your comics and I won't stop reading them.

Lalania Reed

Monte WY, GA

TV goes for your viscera. We go for your mind. Besides, we eat the faces first.

—CK

I've been doing some research and I found that the first issue of CRYPT was named INTERNATIONAL COMICS and issue #9 when it was renamed INTERNATIONAL CRIME PATROL. At #7 it was shortened to CRIME PATROL up to issue #18. Then at #17 (which is your first issue of CRYPT in this run of reprints) it was CRYPT OF TERROR for 5 issues. At the sacred issue of 20 it became TALES FROM THE CRYPT! My question is will you ever be reprinting these first 18 issues? Interestingly Yours,

Nathaniel Wilson

Pittsburgh, PA

The first, say, 8 nights of this design would remind you of period RCP (EC) comics, I think. Not until the advent of Grig & Feltstein would you commence to see any EC-mag, not until the last few issues would you see ME! You can see the CRIME PATROL issues in the WAR AGAINST CRIME/CRIME PATROL set of The Complete EC Library.

—CK

I love your stories. I'm 13 years old, but I'm going crazy over CRYPT. I loved your story "Death Must Come." You ought to make more stories about eternal life.

Two stories from your TV show got me in a CRYPT mood. The first is "Korman's Identity." I looked at the office in the program. Is that what your office looks like? The second was "Yellow," starring Kirk Douglas and Sam

Alyroid: I got a question. Why can't I find it?

If anyone would like to talk about OK, the comics, or "Tales from the Crypt" stories, write me.

Andy Tristenbach 3277 Parkton Way
Baltimore, MD 21212

We released the "Kamen's" on cable, "Kamen's Kamenity!" from CRYPT 18 will come around soon (or get 64-pg RCP CRYPT #1 right now!) and the 6 pretty concrete, "Teller" ran in SPOCK #1 (back issues available). —CK

First of all let me say: I am a HUGE fan of CRYPT, VAULT, and HAUNT, but your stories are definitely the best. Although I am only 13 years old, I love your comics and I have been reading them for about 2 years.

I don't know why the printers put The Old Witch's and The Youth-Keeper's stories in with yours, they don't compare.

You're very handsome. do you get your good looks from your Mommy or from your Daddy?

Janet Bringer Hot Springs, AR

Buy 64-pg GLAD CRYPT #1 and find out! Hah-hah! —CK

I love your comics. In my opinion, they are the best comics on the market. But at great as your comics as you can make them much better by adding a little more blood and gore to the pictures. The stories are fine (just make the pictures a little more gruesome. If you add just a little more gore the comics may become the best on the market) (not just in my opinion). Trust me, I'm your most dedicated fan (I'm not going to say I'm your #1 fan because that's what all you fans say). The reason why I say I'm your most dedicated fan is because one wall of my room is dedicated to EC comics and the rest of my room looks like a smaller version of the house on the HMO series.

Greg Rinal Brooklyn, NY

Clean your room! —CK

I love your comics. I really think that OK and VK should get run over by a truck. VK stinks at telling stories. His story in CRYPT 80 really sucked.

"Mangled Snack!" was predictable and not scary at all.

I started collecting EC comics about a year ago. My Dad and I were in Cleveland for a ball game when we walked into a B. Dalton Bookseller and I started to look for a BATMAN comic when I spotted a CRYPT #1 at the bottom. As far as I'm concerned all EDCs should be at the top. I bought it, and have been subscribing ever since. Your takes are the most gruesome, and have the best endings.

Here is CRYPT #18 in order: COVER. Really blood did a pretty good job. Is it just me, or does OW look drunk on the cover?

"Green and Quarantined?" Best story in the book. Jack Davis #1 is the best. Man, I sure wouldn't like to be run over by a subway.

"The Barren Body?" Worst story in the book. VK really can't tell stories. I'm telling you.

"Indian Burial Mound?" No offense, Crypty, but I wasn't that good. You've had better stories in your lifetime. I mean, you could tell that Roy was gonna die.

"Political Pull?" Okay but the end was unrealistic. A body wouldn't even last a month let alone a year in the sea.

Please print my address. If anybody disagrees with my opinions and criticism, please write. Oh and OK, don't die yet, cause I love your work! Gruesomely yours,

Talia Berszonow, 11 years old 300 Woodbridge LN
Orionville, MI 48862

I love your comic books. I have 4 questions for the Crypt-Keeper: When is your Birthday? Do you have any brothers or sisters? Are you married? or do you have to dig up a date? Will you be my pet cat?

Scott Remyer Vancouver, BC

See below for Birthday information (Get a shovel!) —CK

I found out one of the great mysteries of all time. How old you are. You are 121 years old in 1994! I have proof to back me up. In GLAD CRYPT #1 during the introduction of the story "Lower Birth", you explain that a circus came to a small town 60 years ago. A year later you were born, this was said in 1993. So in 1992 you were 70 years old. 43 years later (1994) you are 121 years old (70+42=121).

Being an artist myself, I think that your artist, Jack Davis, and the Old Hag's, cops, I mean Old Witch's artist, Graham Ingels, are the most talented artists of the EC horror comics. Jack's corpse drawings and Graham's finely rendered pictures are superb.

My top favorite three takes, in order, are: 1st - "The Chips Are Down" (RCP VAULT #1), 2nd - "Pool Play" (RCP VAULT #6), and 3rd - "While The Cat's Away" (GLAD VAULT #1). The best episodes from "Tales From The Crypt" the series are "18 Death" and "Mountain Mead".

Now come the dreaded questions. On the back of my Crypt card #60 it says the (cover of) CRYPT #68 was to be the cover for a new EC horror comic. What was the comic's title to be, and who was to be the host?

Do you have any posters or T-shirts to sell? Please print my address.

Jeffrey Jones 4231 Sansam Blvd
Bensalem, PA 19050

An interesting theory, that much on my age. How long after my telling that tale did EC write it up for the comics? I said "about" 60 years. And, were these human years or dog years?

EC planned a fourth horror title in late 1984, and was going to call it THE CRYPT OF TERROR (which revived the original title of this mag, dropped after the "First" three issues). I would have been the host (who died?) and the first issue was prepared and did see print as issue "448" of CRYPT (actually 430).

Funny you should ask (hah-hah); the back cover of this comic offers a T-shirt ONLY YOU COMICS FANS will get! —CK

Also available this month are WEIRD SCIENCE and SPOCK, stories for VAULT, WEIRD PARADE and TWO-PICTED and HAUNT, Don's Fright House, INCREDIBLE SCIENCE FICTION and GHOST. See them at your local comic book shop or WorldWide Web our ad in this issue for details.

Single Issues: CRYPT #1, 64 page (subject to availability) at \$1.99 each (this issue \$2, \$1.99 each). Issues #4 and up, \$2 each. Add \$5 per order (US \$ outside US) for \$25.

Write to:
CRYPT
RUE COLEMAN
POB 488
WEST PLAIN, MO 65755

THIS COMIC REPRINTS

TALES FROM THE CRYPT #67" (J11, EDC \$1/JAN 92)

COVER by Wally Wood

"West-Coast Horror"

"Madame Bluebeard"

"Return"

"Horror Head...J. Off"

Jack Davis

Joe Orlando

Jack Kamen

Graham Ingels

We welcome letters of comment. We cannot promise to acknowledge, publish or answer letters we feel are overly abusive and angry. We sometimes remove short letters and do not print, so really we are your main opinion. The intent is to encourage discussion of letters, so do not treat your address as confidential either.



HERE'S A GHOSTLY YARD!

I CALL IT...

RETURN!



MYRA SAT ON THE CHAIR BY THE WINDOW, STAREING OUT AT THE GENTLY FALLING RAIN! A SINGLE TEAR SLID SILENTLY DOWN ONE CHEEK.

OH, JIM! JIM! WHY DID YOU GO AWAY AGAIN? WHY DON'T YOU COME BACK. NOW THAT I NEED YOU SO?



MYRA SMILED! SUDDENLY THE TELEPHONE RANG! SHE RUSHED TO IT, HOPEING. PRAYING ...

HELLO? WHHHA! IT'S MAM... MAM FORREST! I JUST GOT IN! WILL YOU BE HOME FOR THE REST OF THE NIGHT?



HAL, BEAR! IT'S SO, MYNA! GOING TO ~~WASH~~ YOUR VOICE? IS ~~JIM~~ WITH YOU?



MYNA HOOKED EARLY AND HUNG UP! HAL - HAL FORREST, JIM'S PARTNER, WAS HOME. WITHOUT ~~JIM~~ MYNA PLUNGED HERSELF ON THE SOFA AND BEGAN TO SOB.

OH, JIM! ~~JIM~~ WHERE ARE YOU? WHERE ARE YOU, DARLING?



HAL FORREST HAD BEEN BEST MAN AT JIM AND MYNA'S WEDDING! THAT HAD BEEN OVER SIXTEEN MONTHS AGO! THE THREE OF THEM HAD DRIVEN UPSTATE TO A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE.

TEN MORE MILES, KIDS! THEN DOGS! EXCUSE ME!



THE J.P.'S HOME HAD BEEN A LOVELY LITTLE PLACE. THE KIND OF HOUSE MYNA'D READ ABOUT IN BOOKS! IT WAS WHITE SHINGLES, COVERED WITH CLIMBING ROSES AND VINE.

AND I NOW PRODUCE YOU MAN AND WIFE!

JIM! MYNA!



UH-UH! YOU TAKE THE CAR! DRIVE UP SOME-PLACE AND ENJOY YOURSELVES! SOON!

SO LONG, HAL! THANKS A ~~LOAD~~, KID!

YOU'RE A DREAM, HAL!



HAL HAD PLANTED THE BEST MAN'S TRADITIONAL KISS ON MYNA'S CHEEK, AND THEN ANNOUNCED.

WELL, KIDS! HAVE A NICE TIME ON YOUR HONEYMOON! I'VE GOT A TRAIN TO CATCH!

TRAMP! YOU! BUT YOUR CAR!



LATER, AS JIM AND MYNA SPED ALONE.

THAT WAS ~~FREE~~! OF HAL TO LEND US THE CAR, WASN'T IT, JIM?

YEAH! HE'S A ~~SWELL~~ GUY! WE ~~FLIP~~ TOGETHER DURING THE WAR! WE'RE GOING INTO ~~BUSINESS~~ TOGETHER WHEN YOU AND I GET BACK!





WHAT KIND OF BUSINESS?

AN AIR-FREIGHT 'NAL'S GOT A LINE ON A DC-3! IF WE CAN SWING IT...



YOU MEAN FLYING?

WHY NOT? THAT'S ALL I KNOW! BESIDES - THERE'S GOOD MONEY IN IT IF YOU OWN YOUR OWN SHIP!



BUT, THAT MEANS WE'LL BE SEPARATED!

ONLY FOR A FEW DAYS AT A TIME, MYRA! WE'RE JUST GOING TO FLY SHORT-HOP STUFF!

AND SO MYRA'S HONEYMOON HAD BEGUN! THEY'D FOUND A QUIET LITTLE HOTEL AND SPENT TWO WEEKS OF HEAVEN. THEY'D SOME RIDING, FISHING, SWIMMING.



C'NONE IS, HONEY! THE WATER'S FINE!

BE WITH YOU IN A MINUTE! I'VE GOT TO PUT ON MY CAP.

BUT EVERYTHING WONDERFUL FINALLY HAD TO END AND MYRA AND JIM'S HONEYMOON WAS NO EXCEPTION THEN...



WE GOT THE PLANE, MYRA! A DC-3! IT'S A BEAUTY! AN AIR-SUPPLIES JOB! BAL'S STRIPPING DOWN THE ENGINE'S NOW! I'VE GOT TO GET RIGHT BACK TO THE AIRPORT...

OH, I SEE! THEN YOUR WORKING TO RIGHT?

AFTER THE PLANE WAS RECONDITIONED, JIM HAD BEGUN SOLICITING BUSINESS...



ANY LEAD, JIM?

NOT ONE LEAD! BLAST IT! THE BIG LINES HAVE THE AIR-FREIGHT SERVICE ALL SERVED UP!

AND THEN, ONE NIGHT, JIM HAD RUSHED HOME...



MYRA! LOOK! A CONTRACT! WE'RE RICH!

OH, JIM! I'M SO HAPPY!



YEAH, ONLY THERE'S A
CATCH! IT'S WITH A
SOUTH AMERICAN
OUTFIT...

SOUTH AMERICAN?
BUT THAT MEANS
WE'LL BE SEPARATED!



IT'LL ONLY BE FOR A
LITTLE WHILE,
BABY! JUST AS SOON
AS I CAN, I'LL SEND
FOR YOU!

PLEASE, JIM! DON'T DO!
I'M AFRAID! IT'S SO
FAR AWAY...



BUT JIM HAD INSISTED THAT IT
WAS THE ONE BREAK THEY'D
NEEDED! AND SO, AFTER FIVE
MONTHS OF MARRIAGE, JIM AND
MYRA WERE PARTED...

WRIE TO ME,
DARLING!

EVERY ONE
MYRA!



BUT AFTER JIM HAD LEFT, MYRA
HAD RECEIVED ONLY ONE LETTER.

IT'S FROM PABLO!
THEY STOPPED THERE
TO RE-FUEL!



AND THEN, FOR A MONTH MYRA'D
HEARD NOTHING NOT A WORD...

OH, JIM! JIM!
WHY DON'T YOU
WRITE? WHAT'S
BROKEN?



THE MONTHS HAD DRAGGED ON WITH NO WORD FROM
JIM! SOON A YEAR WENT BY... A YEAR SINCE JIM HAD
GONE AWAY...

OH, JIM! JIM! PLEASE COME BACK
TO ME! PLEASE...



MYRA'D BEEN AFRAID TO THINK THE WORST... THAT
SOMETHING HAD HAPPENED TO JIM! THEN, ONE
NIGHT, FOURTEEN MONTHS AFTER JIM HAD LEFT
FOR SOUTH AMERICA...

O-COMING! JUST
A MINUTE!

KNOCK
KNOCK!!



AND SO, THEY'D BEEN TOGETHER AGAIN... IN EACH OTHER'S ARMS! BUT MYRA'S JOY WAS SHORT-LIVED... FOR THE NEXT MORNING...





JIM HAD LEFT NO FORWARDING ADDRESS...JUST THE NOTE! SOON ANOTHER THREE MONTHS HAD SLIPPED AWAY MYRA' S BODILY FEEL ILL! SHE'D HAD HEADACHES...GIZZY SPELLS...ATTACKS OF NAUSEA...

THE DOCTOR WILL SEE YOU NOW, M'AM!

THANK YOU!



HER FAMILY PHYSICIAN HAD EXAMINED HER...FINALLY ANNOUNCING THE SYMPTOMS YOU DESCRIBE ARE NOT UNCOMMON TO SOMEONE WHO IS GOING TO BECOME A MOTHER. MYRA!

DOCTOR! ARE YOU SURE? WHEN?



SIX MONTHS OR SO! YOU'D BETTER BE TAKING IT EASY!

I WILL, DOCTOR! THANK YOU!



NOW, MYRA LAY DOBBING ON THE COUCH, WAITING FOR HAL. FORGET, JIM'S PARTNER? SUDDENLY THE CHIMES SOUNDED! MYRA OILED HER EYES AND OPENED THE DOOR...

HAL! WHY DID YOU COME ALONE? WHY DIDN'T YOU BRING JIM BACK WITH YOU?

I COULDN'T, MYRA! JIM'S... DEAD!



MYRA STARED AT HAL! SHE COULDN'T BELIEVE HER EARS...

NO! NO! IT CAN'T BE! I'M GOING TO HAVE A BABY! WHEN I SAW JIM THREE MONTHS AGO...

THREE MONTHS AGO! IMPOSSIBLE!



WHAT DO YOU MEAN, IMPOSSIBLE? JIM WAS HERE...HE SPENT THE NIGHT THREE MONTHS AGO!

BUT... IT CAN'T BE!



OUR PLANE CRASHED UP FOUR HUNDRED MILES SOUTH OF PANAMA...IN THE JUNGLE! JIM WAS KILLED INSTANTLY! IT TOOK ME FIFTEEN MONTHS TO CRAWL OUT OF THAT GOD-FORSAKEN PLACE...BACK TO CIVILIZATION!

THE END



HEY, HEY! I SEE YOU'RE SURPRISED! THAT'S THE SPIRIT! WHAT'S THAT YOU ASK? HOW SHOULD I KNOW? ASK MYRA! FUNNY THING ABOUT MYRA AND JIM? WHEN THEY FIRST MET, MYRA DIDN'T THINK SHE HAD A CHANCE OF A CHANCE WITH HIM! WELL, NOW IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO BE REVOLTED BY THE OLD MYRA'S EYES, RIGHT?

THE WITCH'S CAULDRON!

NOW THAT YOU'VE HAD YOUR *CHILLING APPETIZERS* FROM MY FELLOW GHOULMATES, IT'S TIME FOR ME TO SERVE YOU THE *MAIN COURSE*! SO COME INTO THE *HAUNT OF FEAR*! MY CAULDRON BUBBLES AND GURGLES! IT'S *BEVIL*, *BEVIL* IS JUST ABOUT READY! YEP! IT'S *ME AGAIN*! *THE OLD WITCH*! HELLO! *HUNGRY*? GOOD! THEN OPEN YOUR LITTLE LEERING MOUTHS AND I'LL STUFF IN THE *TASTY TERROR-TALE* I CALL...

HORROR!

HEAD...

IT OFF!

THE YEAR WAS 1793! THE PLACE WAS FRANCE DURING THE BLOODY DAYS KNOWN AS 'THE REIGN OF TERROR'. FOLLOWING THE FRENCH REVOLUTION! IN PAUL SILHOUETTED AGAINST THE GRAY SKY STOOD THE NOTORIOUS *GUILLOTINE* FOR ITS GLAMING BLADE WAS HOISTED, THE GATHERED CROWD BROUDED AND CAT-CALLED! FROM SOMEWHERE CAME THE OMINOUS ROLL OF A SHARP DRUM! THE BLADE FLASHED DOWNWARD... AND ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE DOOMED ARISTOCRACY MET HIS END AS HIS HEAD UNFROD INTO THE WAITING BASKET.

DAVID L. V.

FAR ACROSS PARIS...NEAR FROM THIS BLOODY SCENE...TWO FIGURES MADE THEIR WAY SLOWLY THROUGH A CROOKED STREET. ONE MAN WAS TALL, WELL-BUILT, BUT CRIPPLED. THE OTHER WAS SHORT AND SQUAT. THE CRIPPLED ONE MOVED PAINFULLY, FIRST STEPPING, THEN DRAGGING HIS HELPLESS CLUB FOOT.

DOOR THE STRANGER TWO-ONE CAME TO A DARK ALLEY. THEY TURNED IN, STOPPING BEFORE A BATTERED DOOR. THE SMALL ONE THROCKED ANXIOUSLY. FINALLY, IT CREAKED OPEN.



YES? WHAT IS IT?

WE WE HAVE COME TO BUY SOME FLOWERS!



WORTH MASTER! WE ARE ALMOST THERE!

I AM GASP COMING, LOUIS! I CAN'T WALK AS FAST AS YOU!

THE GREY MAN BEHIND THE DOOR PEERED OUT AT THEM...

FLOWERS? WE WANT SOME WHAT KIND FLEURS-DE-LIS OF FLOWERS?



COME IN! I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO!

YOU ARE MOST KIND!



THE FAT MAN CLOSED THE DOOR BEHIND THE TWO VISITORS AND TURNED TO THEM.

AND... IT DOES NOT MATTER WHO THIS IS THE MARQUIS DE ARCHEMONT? I AM HIS SERVANT, HERE? LOUIS?



YOU HAVE... MONEY?

YES! WE HAVE THE AMOUNT! YOU WILL HELP HIM TO FLEE PARIS AS THEY SAID YOU WOULD?



CERTAINLY! I WILL MAKE ALL THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS! BUT FIRST... IF YOU DON'T MIND... THE MONEY!

OF COURSE! HERE YOU ARE!



THE FAT ONE COUNTED THE
SOLS AND THEN SMILED.
AND YOU AM?
I AM HENRI LUGENE!
LUGENE? YOU ARE THE
DUKE DE LUGENE?
AT YOUR SERVICE!



THAT IS CORRECT!
I HAVE DEDICATED
MYSELF TO HELPING
FELLOW MEMBERS
OF MY CLASS
ESCAPE THE
GUILLOTINE!



AM' M'SIEU
LE DUC?
THIS IS A
NOBLE
THING
YOU DO!
IT WERE
NOT FOR
MY CLUM-
FOOT.



YOU WILL BE
READY TO
LEAVE AT MID-
NIGHT? A COACH
WILL BE AT THE
ALLEYWAY!



I WILL BE
READY!
I DO NOT
WASTE.
BEFORE I
AM MISSED!
GOOD LUCK!



AFTER LOUIS, THE MARQUIS DE HOCHENONT'S
SERVANT, LEFT.

HE IS NOT
BORN WITH
YOU?
THERE IS NO NEED! HE WAS
ONLY MY SERVANT! THE
GUILLOTINE DOES NOT THINK
FOR HIS HEAD! ONLY
MINE...



THAT NIGHT, A COACH DREW UP TO THE ALLEY-
WAY! THE CLUMP ORAG CLUMP ORAG
FOOTSTEPS OF THE FUGITIVE MARQUIS APPROACHED!

BON VOYAGE, MARQUIS
AND GOOD LUCK!
GOOD-BYE, M'SIEU LE
DUC! THANK YOU! MAY
YOU CONTINUE TO HELP
OTHER UNFORTUNATES
LIKE ME!



AS THE COACH CLATTERED OFF INTO THE DARK-
NESS, HENRI... THE FAT DUC DE LUGENE
SMILED TO HIMSELF...

DO NOT WORRY, M'SIEU LE MARQUIS! I
WILL CONTINUE! IT PAYS ME WELL
AND MY HEAD REMAINS ON MY
SHOULDERS!



SOON AFTER, NEAR THE GATES OF PARIS

WHAT IS THE
MEANING
OF THIS?



IT MEANS, M'SIEU LE MAR-
QUIS, THAT YOU ARE UNDER
ARREST IN THE NAME OF
THE FRENCH REPUBLIC!
TOMORROW, THE GUILLO-
TINE AWAITS.



SOON, BACK AT THE HOUSE OF HENRI, DUKE DE LUZERNE...



WELL, CAPTAIN? THAT IS OUR ARRANGEMENT? I TURN THEM OVER TO YOU - AND SAVE MY NECK, ENH?

SAVE YOUR NECK IS NEXT, LUZERNE! IF IT WERE NOT FOR THIS LITTLE SERVICE YOU PERFORM, YOUR HEAD WOULD HAVE ROLLED LONG AGO!



AND SO THE NEXT DAY BEFORE THE JEERING MOB, THE MARQUIS DE ROCHEMONT LIMPED UP THE STEPS OF THE GUILLOTINE.



AND AS THE GLIMMING BLADE WAS HOISTED SKWARD, THE DRUM BEGAN ITS OMINOUS ROLL.



THE CROWD ROARED AS THE BLADE PLUNGED DOWNWARD! BUT IN ITS RISE, ONE MAN DID NOT CHEER! HIS FACE WAS GRIM! IT WAS SHORT, BOUT LOUIS, THE MARQUIS' SERVANT.



LATER... CAPTAIN! THERE IS A MAN OUTSIDE! HE HAS COME TO CLAIM THE MARQUIS DE ROCHEMONT'S REMAINS. HE WAS HIS SERVANT!



LET THE BOSSMAN TAKE IT! TONIGHT!



AND SO, LATE THAT NIGHT A CART RUMBLLED THROUGH THE DESERTED STREETS OF PARIS CARRYING A MACABRE CARGO... A COFFIN, CONTAINING THE DECAPITATED REMAINS OF THE MARQUIS DE ROCHEMONT! IT WAS DRIVEN BY LOUIS, HIS EVER-FAITHFUL SERVANT.



I WILL SEE THAT YOU HAVE A DECENT BURIAL, MASTER!

THE NEXT DAY, LOUIS STOPPED
HENRI WHERE ON THE STREET.

AM LOUIS? I AM
SORRY! I HEARD
THE SAG HENS!

YES, M'SIEU LE
DUKE? MY MAS-
TER... WAS BE-
HEADED YESTER-
DAY!

SH-H-H! YOU
FOOL! DO NOT
CALL ME LE
DUKE!

WHY NOT? EVERY-
ONE KNOWS
ABOUT YOU! I
HAVE LEARNED
THE TRUTH...
MYSELF!

I. I MUST
BE GOING!

WAIT! THERE IS
SOMETHING I MUST
SHOW YOU! COME!

LOUIS LED HENRI LUSURE TO THE MARKETPLACE...

HAVE YOU EVER BOUGHT A CHICKEN HERE,
M'SIEU LUSURE? HAVE YOU EVER SEEN
HOW THEY *KILL* THEM? LOOK!

USH!
THEY CHOP
OFF ITS
HEAD!

YES, M'SIEU? HOW WATCH! SEE HOW
THE BODY SCURRIES ABOUT WITHOUT
ITS HEAD? SEE HOW IT FLAPS ITS
WINGS?

HOW DIRTY!
WHAT ARE YOU
DRIVING AT?

SOMETIMES A CHICKEN WITH ITS HEAD
CHOPPED OFF LIVES FOR HUNDREDS!
I KNOW OF A GASE WHERE ONE LIVED
FOR ALMOST A MONTH! IT ONLY DIED
BECAUSE THE FARMER WHO OWNED IT
ALLOWED THE *WINDPIPE* TO BLOW
CLOSED!

WHY DO
YOU TELL
ME THESE
THINGS?
WHY?

IF A CHICKEN CAN LIVE ON
WITH ITS HEAD REMOVED,
M'SIEU LUSURE, THEN
WHY NOT A HUMAN BEING?
ERR

YOU'RE MAD! YOU'RE
TRYING TO FRIGHTEN
ME! BAH! FOOLISH-
NESS!

LOUIS SCURRIED OFF, LAUGHING. WHILE HENRI WIPOED THE PERSPIRATION FROM HIS FACE! LATER THAT NIGHT, AS HENRI LURED SAT IN HIS HOUSE...



THE IDIOT! IF HE THINKS HE CAN SCARE ME, HE'S...

SUDDENLY HENRI HEARD AN UNMISTAKABLE SOUND! FIRST, A CLUMP. THEN SOMETHING GRASSING... THEN A CLUMP... THEN THE GRASSING NOISE...



W. WHAT WAS THAT? IT SOUNDED LIKE FOOTSTEPS! LIKE A MAN... WITH A GLUB-FOOT!

THE CLUMPING, GRASSING SOUNDS CAME FROM THE ALLEY OUTSIDE! HENRI RUSHED TO THE DOOR... AND SLID THE BOLT CLOSED...



HE... HE'S AFTER ME! THE MARQUIS...

AS HENRI WATCHED REVERBIES, THE DOORKNOB TURNED SLOWLY! THEN IT RATTLED! SOMEONE OUTSIDE WAS TRYING TO GET IN...



OH, LORD... PROTECT ME! THANK GOD, I BOLTED IT IN TIME!

THEN THE CLUMP... GRAS... CLUMP... GRAS... FARED AWAY DOWN THE ALLEY...



HE... HE'S GOING AWAY! ME...

SUDDENLY, HENRI CURSED. WHAT A FOOL I AM! A STUPID FOOL! OF COURSE! THAT WAS LOUIS OUT THERE! HE'S TRYING TO FRIGHTEN ME! WHO EVER HEARD OF A BEHEADED MAN LIVING ON...



HENRI FLUNG OPEN THE DOOR AND PEERED OUT! THEN HE GASPED! THE TRACKS IN THE DIRT WERE UNMISTAKABLE! ONE SET WAS THAT OF A SMALL MAN! THE OTHERS WERE STRANGE... AS IF THE PERSON MAKING THEM GRASSED ONE FOOT...



A... A... GLUB-FOOT! NOW DIED! THEY WERE BOTH HERE!

HEMM SPUN AROUND! THE DOOR
SLAMMED SHUT BEHIND HIM.

I... I'M LOCKED
OUT!



THEN IT CAME AGAIN! THOSE
SOUNDS! *CLUMP... DRAG...
CLUMP... DRAG...* THEY MOVED
TOWARD HEMM FROM THE DARK-
NESS OF THE ALLEY...

WHO WHO'S THERE?
LOUIS? IS THAT
YOU?



A PAIR OF LEGS MOVED INTO THE
SQUARE OF LIGHT THAT STREAMED
FROM THE LAMP ABOVE THE DOOR.
ONE OF THE LEGS HAD A CLUB
FOOT! *STEP... DRAG... STEP...
DRAG...*

DE MOCHMONT?
NO! IT CAN'T
BE!



THE LIGHT CREEPT UP THE HORRIBLE
FIGURE... SLOWLY TO THE WAIST.

LOUIS? IT'S
YOU... ISN'T IT?



TO THE GHOST...

YOU... YOU'RE
TRYING TO...
Frighten ME?
AREN'T YOU?
LOUIS? LOUIS?



AND THEN, THE WHOLE FIGURE
MOVED INTO THE LIGHT! AND IT
HAD NO HEAD...



LOUIS WAS HEARD ONE MORE TIME... RASHER IT...

JUST A LITTLE FURTHER...
JUST A LITTLE!

NO! NO! KEEP AWAY!
YAAAAAAAAAHHH!



WEE... WEE... YES-SURE! HEMM WAS JUST SURPRISED
IN FACT HE LOST HIS HEAD! THEY FOUND HIM THE
NEXT MORNING WITHOUT IT! HIS BODY WAS
LAIN BESIDE THE MARCHION DE ROCH-
MONT'S! THEY MADE QUITE A PAIR! IN FACT IF
IT WEREN'T FOR THE MARCHION'S CLUB-FOOT, YOU
WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO TELL THEM APART!
WHY? OH, COME, COME! USE YOUR HEAD! WHAT
HAPPENED TO HEMM? NO! HOW SHOULD I KNOW?
WHAT HAPPENED TO ALL OF THE HEADS THAT
ROLLED DURING 'THE NIGHT OF TERROR'? HMMM!
SOUNDS LIKE SPORT MATERIAL! THERE! I'LL HAVE
TO LOOK INTO IT! OH, BY THE WAY! ALL MY
BACK ISSUES ARE AVAILABLE! THE CRYPT-
KEEPER'S CORNER TELLS YOU HOW TO GET YOURS!
THAT WINDS IT UP, KIDDIES? I HOPE YOUR
HUNGER IS SATISFIED!
WE'LL ALL SEE YOU NEXT
IN THE HAUNT OF HORROR!
BYE FOR NOW!

PAPERCUTZ

PROUDLY PRESENTS THE FATALIST
FIFTH ISSUE OF THE ALL-NEW...

TALES FROM THE CRYPT

BASED ON THE CLASSIC EC COMICS SERIES



RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED TO WILLIAM M. GAINES, AL FELDSTEIN,
REED CRANDALL, JOHNNY CRAIG, JACK DAVIS, WILL ELDER, GEORGE
EVANS, GRAHAM INGELS, JACK KAMEN, BERNIE KRIGSTEIN, HARVEY
KURTZMAN, JOE ORLANDO, GEORGE ROUSSOS, MARIE SEVERIN, AL
WILLIAMSON, AND WALLY WOOD.

"QUEEN OF THE VAMPIRES"

MARK BILGREY

WRITER

MR. EXES

ARTIST

MARK LERER

LETTERER



THE CRYPT-KEEPER

"KID TESTED, MOTHER APPROVED"

JARED GNIEWEK

WRITER

JAMES ROMBERGER

ARTIST

MARGUERITE VAN COOK

COLOR

MARK LERER

LETTERER

GHOULUNATICS SEQUENCES

JIM SALICRUP

WRITER

RICK PARKER

ARTIST/TITLE

LETTERER/COLOR

MARK LERER

LETTERER

JAMES ROMBERGER

COVER ARTIST

JOHN MCCARTHY

PRODUCTION

TERRY NANTIER



THE PUBLISHER

JIM SALICRUP



THE OLD EDITOR

Continued by Rick Parker

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TERROR



HARDCORE
NO. 5
ALL-NEW!



TALES FROM THE CRYPT

FEATURING...



THE CRYPT-KEEPER



THE OLD WITCH



THE VAULT-KEEPER



93 9505

059




7189645509



HEY, OLD MITCH, HOW
LONG IS THE CRYPT-KEEPER
GOING TO KEEP READING
HIS FAN MAIL?

OH, LET HIM BE.
VAULT-KEEPER!



IT KEEPS HIM FROM TELLING
THOSE INSUFFERABLE YARNS
OF HIS! NOW IF HE WERE
AS GOOD AS MY FAVORITE
HORROR WRITER, VICTORIA
PRICE, I WOULDN'T MIND!
TAKE FOR EXAMPLE, THIS
TALE OF GREED AND
BETRAYAL ENTITLED...

QUEEN OF THE

VAMPIRES



WHICH BRINGS US TO THE DORM OF TWO ROOMMATES, SALLY "SYBIL" MILLS AND TINA "TANTH" BENSON, WHO ARE TALKING ABOUT THEIR FAVORITE SUBJECT.











FINALLY...

I'M SO EXCITED.
TOMORROW IS
THE BIG DAY!

LIKE I COULD FORGET
ABOUT THAT? C'MON, LET'S
GO TO OUR SPECIAL PLACE
AND CELEBRATE!

I'M KIND OF TIRED. I
THOUGHT I'D MAKE IT
AN EARLY NIGHT.

BUT WE HAVE
TO GO! I, UH,
MEAN, IT'S OUR
RITUAL...

TALES
FROM THE
CRYPT


OH, IT'LL BE VERY QUICK
I GUARANTEE IT.

OH, YOU'RE
SO SWEET. ALL
RIGHT, BUT LET'S
MAKE IT QUICK
TONIGHT.










ALAS, POOR TANITH, YOU
WERE ALWAYS TOO TRUSTING.
I WAS BEGINNING TO FEEL
PANGS OF SYMPATHY
FOR YOU.

BUT THEY
PASSED LIKE
A BUST OF
SUMMER
WIND.




SINCE, DEAR FRIEND, NO ONE
HAS BEEN BURIED IN THIS
OLD CEMETERY SINCE THE
REVOLUTIONARY WAR, IT
IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY
THAT YOU WILL BE
NOTICED.



WELL, THAT'S IT, TANITH, DEAR.
SORRY I CAN'T PROVIDE YOU
WITH A SUITABLE GRAVESTONE.
BUT I'M SURE YOU CAN UNDER-
STAND THE DELICATENESS
OF THE SITUATION.





AND NOW TO SEEK OUT
THE ROYAL RESIDENCE OF MY
QUEEN. CERTAINLY, HER REGAL
MANSION IS NOT AMONG THE
HUMBLE DWELLINGS OF
COMMONERS



THIS DOCUMENT, HAND DRAWN, NO DOUBT, BY
THE PALACE CARTOGRAPHER, REVEALS THAT I AM
CORRECT IN MY ASSUMPTION. THOUGH, HER
MAJESTY'S STately HOME IS NOT FAR. IT
SEEMS, PERHAPS SHE WISHES NOT TO STRAY
TOO GREAT A DISTANCE FROM HER
SUBJECTS.



MY HEART IS ALL AFLUTTER! YONDER
IS THE CASTLE OF SHE WHOM I HAVE
PLEGGED MY ETERNAL ALLEGIANCE
TO! AND WILL YOU LOOK AT THE
SIZE OF IT! YOU COULD FIT MY
WHOLE NEIGHBORHOOD IN THERE
AND STILL HAVE ROOM FOR THE
MALL AND TWO PARKING
LOTS!



**DUM DUM TA DUM
TA TA DUM TA
DUM DUM DUM!**



A LITTLE LATER...

MISS PRICE
WILL SEE YOU
NOW, IN THE
LIBRARY.

LEP! THIS
IS IT! MY QUEEN
AWAITS!







THIS IS
WHERE I KEEP
MY AMPHIBIANS.

CUTE
FROGS.

EACH ONE
HAS ENOUGH POISON
IN THEM TO KILL ONE
HUNDRED PEOPLE. IT'S
WHAT INDIGENOUS
TRIBES USE ON
THEIR BLOWGUN
DARTS.

I SO HOPE
YOU'RE ENJOYING THIS
SLUMPE INTO SOME OF MY
DISTRACTIONS. FEEL FREE TO
ASK ME ANYTHINGS AT ALL.
TONIGHT I'M HERE
FOR YOU.

WH, I WAS
CURIOUS. HOW DID
YOU COME UP WITH
THE CHARACTER
OF THE VAMPIRE
DUBOIS?

AS IT HAPPENS,
THE INSPIRATION
FOR DUBOIS CAME
FROM WHAT'S IN THIS
ROOM. PLEASE,
STEP INSIDE.





YOU WERE CHOSEN AS THE CONTEST WINNER BECAUSE, AFTER A BACKGROUND CHECK, IT WAS DETERMINED YOU HAVE NO LIVING RELATIVES.

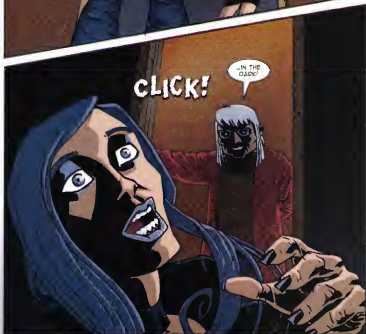
BUT, BUT I'M NOT...




TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION, WHAT INSPIRED MY CHARACTER DUBOIS...



...IS LIVING ON THE CEILING.





I PROMISED MY
VAMPIRE BATS A SPECIAL
MEAL TO CELEBRATE THE
LAUNCHING OF MY NEW BOOK.
IT'S A TREAT I GIVE THEM
ONCE A YEAR. IT SEEMS
TO BRING ME LUCK.

AND I'VE BEEN
TOO BUSY TO FEED
THEM LATELY, AND
THEY'RE OH, SO
HUNGRY.

MY, MY, ALL
THAT SCREAMING.
I DO BELIEVE I'M GET-
TING ANOTHER IDEA FOR
A NEW BOOK. I SO
LOVE THE CREATIVE
PROCESS. DON'T
YOU?

END



WHAT A
BATTY ENDING!

>GROAN<

YES, SYBIL PAID
QUITE A PRICE TO MEET
MRS. PRICE! JUST AS YOU'RE
PAYING THE PRICE OF EATING
TOO MANY CHOCOLATE
STUFFED FRUITY GRAIN
BALLS!

IT'S THE ONLY
THING THAT KEEPS
THE OLD VAULT-
KEEPER VAULTING
ABOUT!

JUST CHECK
OUT WHAT HAPPENS TO
LITTLE JIMMY WHEN HE
SKIPS BREAKFAST, IN
THIS SHOCKER I
CALL...

Kid TESTED
MOTHER
APPROVED!

WOW! AN
"A" ON YOUR
SPELLING
TEST...

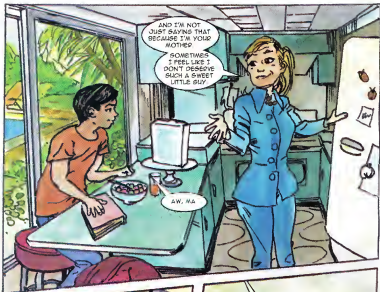
...HITTING A
HOME RUN IN
GYM CLASS...

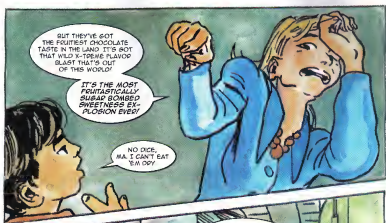
...LANDING
THE LEAD IN THE
SCHOOL PLAY...

...AND A BLUE
DISSON AT THE
SCIENCE FAIR!

A large, detailed illustration of a white bowl filled with multi-colored, round cereal pieces in shades of red, yellow, green, and pink. A silver spoon is stuck into the cereal. The background is white with numerous black diagonal lines radiating outwards, creating a sense of motion or excitement.

I HATE TO SAY IT,
BUT YOU MIGHT BE
THE **GREATEST** KID
IN THE WORLD!





BUT THEY'VE GOT
THE FRUITEST CHOCOLATE
TASTE IN THE LAND IT'S GOT
THAT WILD K-TREME FLAVOR
BLAST THAT'S OUT
OF THIS WORLD!

IT'S THE MOST
FRANTICALLY
SUGAR BOMBED
SWEETNESS EX-
PLOSION EVER!

NO DICE,
MA. I CAN'T EAT
'EM DRY



YOU ATE THEM
DRY ALL THE TIME WHEN
YOU WERE LITTLE. WHY, YOU'VE
EATEN CHOCOLATE STUFFED
FRUITY SOAIN BALLS EVERY
DAY OF YOUR LIFE.

J.WELL SINCE
YOU'VE HAD
TEETH.

MOM, I'LL
BE OKAY. I DON'T
NEED TO EAT THEM
EVERY DAY.



YES, YES,
YOU DO!

WHY ASEN'T YOU
BOMBS CRAZY WITH
THE CHOCORIFFIC
FRUIT SPASHES?

JUMMY,
YOU NEED A
WELL-BALANCED
BREAKFAST WITH
THE SWEETNESS YOU
CRAVE MELDED WITH
THE VITAMINS, NUTRI-
ENTS, AND MINERALS
YOU NEED FOR
STRONG BONES,
A WINNING SMILE
AND PEP AND
AND VIGOR!

VIGOR--
YOU NEED
VIGOR!!

BYE, MOM
SEE YOU AFTER
SCHOOL



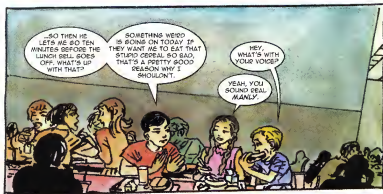




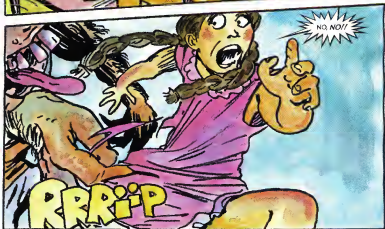


















---DENIES
REPORTS OF
A STUDENT
SHOOTER...



AMID CHAOS
AND TRAGEDY IN OUR
PUBLIC SCHOOLS, THE
PUBLIC ASKS "WHAT
ABOUT OUR
CHILDREN?"



WE DON'T
KNOW THE SITU-
ATION WITH
RECKY.

SEEING
YOU MIGHT MAKE
HIM FLIP AND
ATTACK HER?

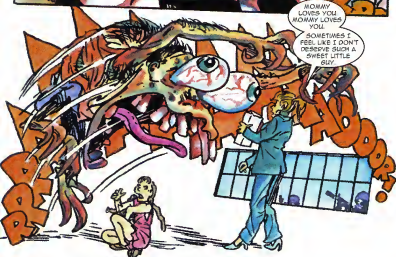
WE
CAN'T AFFORD
TO LOSE ONE
CHILD!

NOT A
ONE

WE NEED A
DIVERSION TO
GET HIM OUT INTO
THE OPEN SO I
CAN DELIVER A
CLEAN SHOT.









EVERYTHING'S
GONNA BE OKAY,
BABY.

YOU ARE THE
BEST KID IN THE
WORLD.

EVERYTHING'S
GONNA BE GREAT.

YOU'RE GOING
TO EAT A NUTRITIOUS
BREAKFAST EVERY
DAY.

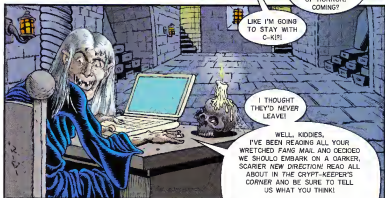
FROM
NOW ON
I PROMISE
NO MORE
MISTAKES.

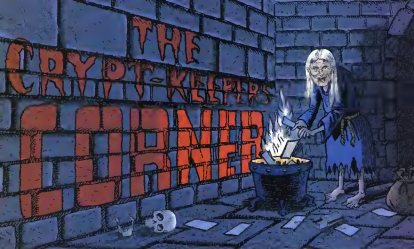
EVERYTHING'S
GONNA BE JUST
LIKE IT WAS BEFORE.
I PROMISE.





END





Hdee-ho, horror-fans! It's me again, the original ol' Crypt-Keeper. Welcome to more CONDESCENDING CRITICISM, mixed in with a dollop of MINDLESS PRAISE, for our previous inconsistent issues. Let's bear it for the FEARLESS FANS willing to brave the BITING WIT and CUTTING COMEBACKS for which this politically incorrect letters column is becoming INFAMOUS!

Now, kiddies, this is where I'd normally reveal the results of your votes on TALES FROM THE CRYPT #4, but the SHOCKING TRUTH is, at presstime we still haven't received any! So, it's still up in the air what you think about last issue's TERROR TALES – "CRYSTAL CLEAR" by Dan McGregor and James Romberger and "Extra Life" by Neil Kleid and Chris North. For you ROTTING READERS living in the United States, this is an election year, so it's your DUTY to VOTE! We'll give you one more chance, but when TALES FROM THE CRYPT #6 hits the stands, the voting on #4 will be OFFICIALLY OVER!

If you somehow missed our FRIGHTENING fourth issue, the PENNY-PINCHERS over at Papercuts have already collected "CRYSTAL CLEAR" and other FEAR-FAB! FS into paperback and hardcover collections entitled TALES FROM THE CRYPT #2 "CAN YOU FEAR ME NOW?" You'll have to wait for the third CRYPT collection, entitled "Zombulicious" for "Extra Life" to be collected, though! But TALES FROM THE CRYPT #2, along with TALES FROM THE CRYPT #1 "Ghouls Gone Wild" should be on shelves of better BOOKstores now

Okay, just wanted to say how much I like the "TALES FROM THE CRYPT" comics. Okay, I like the stories, although the art needs to look more like the old comics from the fifties, 'cause I liked the way it looked back then. I really didn't read the old comics, I only saw that art on the first season DVD. But keep up the good work on the comics; also maybe stay with the tradition of those comics.

Your Fan,
Ethan

Let us know what you think of our most recent issues, Ethan. Has the artwork taken a turn for the WORSE or are you DIGGIN' the NEW DIRECTION newcomer North, rotten ol' Romberger, and even the ever-popular Mr. Eses have taken!

Subject: I love Tales from the Crypt!!!!

Hi, you deathheads! I love the comic. I was reading issue #3 and I was wondering what you got the idea for a painting of a zombie Mona Lisa? Can't wait for the next issue! Can I order a copy of issue #1 from you?

Sean Clagg
Myrtle Beach, SC

Sorry, Sean, but we're SOLD OUT of TALES FROM THE CRYPT #1. You can order the paperback or hardcover collections that feature both stories from #1. And you'll have to read "A BODY OF WORK" by Marc Bilgrey and Mr. Eses to learn the SECRET behind ZOMBIE MONA!

Dear Crypt Keeper,

I thoroughly enjoyed the third issue. I feel I am in the minority, but in the end "A Murderin' Idol" eventually came out as my favorite. "And may I make a suggestion? Do something about that hair!" Hce, hee! How many demons do you see making suggestions? I have a feeling, though, that it will be beaten by "Slabbed!" because everybody loves it when comics make stories about comics. I appreciate the insight as to how the comics industry feels about this latest option of slapping comics to preserve them, but make them completely unreadable. The blurb about #4 looks promising. Looking forward to #4.

Briony Coote,

Lower Hutt, New Zealand

Good to hear from you again, Briony! But it looks like it takes a while for our mad-mag to make its way to New Zealand, which is causing you to miss out on the voting. But take heart, (or take any organ of your choice!) "A MURDERIN' IDOL" did take top honors over "SLABBED!"

Dear Crypt Keeper,

It looks like you are getting revenge on Dr. Wertham and his "Seduction of the Innocent" which killed off the original title. You had a visitor called Wertham in #2 and your comment on "Slabbed": "It's juvenile delinquents such as Derrick that give comics a really bad name!" was unmistakable. Are you going to go the whole hog and have a story that makes a real dig at the old reactionary? If not, why don't you think about it?

Briony Coote

Lower Hutt, New Zealand

Back again, Briony! In CRYPT #2, I may have exclaimed "What the Wertham -!" in a moment of TERROR, but rest assured (and in peace) that no visitor of that name has ever stepped foot in THE CRYPT OF TERROR!

Dear Crypt-Keeper,

You were asking readers if the HAUNT OF FEAR and VAULT OF HORROR should be revived as well. Well, I reckon the reason the Vault-Keeper and Old Witch keep goofing off is because they don't have a comic of their own. Therefore I think reviving those titles will be a good idea - if you feel the readership is strong enough.

Briony Coote

Lower Hutt, New Zealand

You again? Well, we'll need far more than one reader in Lower Hutt, New Zealand before we can even think about reviving HAUNT OF FEAR and VAULT OF HORROR!

Dear Sir,

I am an avid collector of most comics. I do own a complete collection of EC Comics (originals), including a Gaines file copy of WAR AGAINST CRIME #10 9.8. Your attempt at a revival of EC is a great challenge. To me, the ECs were and still are the best books ever to be published. Most of those artists are now well-known and well-collected (very valuable in most cases). Williamson, Wood, Davis, Ghastly Angels, etc. What I think needs to be done to be successful is "take" from the original format, rather than take an "Archie" approach to your revival. Attempt to do what the original format brought to the media - excellent art and stories. Then with the right formula, you can bring the whole sci-fi line back and horror. I have a vast knowledge of this business (I own BATMAN #1, SUPERMAN #1, AMAZING FANTASY #15, etc.) and lots of EC original art. Try to move toward the original format. Hey, Al Williamson is still out there, so is Al Feldstein. I would like you to be very successful, but as of now your books are too tame. Granted, there are no Frazetta or Woods out there, but with the right approach you can be very successful.

Good luck.

Robert Mettels

Norwalk, CT

But, Bob, do you have a copy of PURE EVIL #1? So much for this issue's DIVISIVE DISCOURSE! Be here next issue for the story so SHOCKING we can't even reveal the title, as well as "Graveyard Shift at the Twilight Garden" by Rob Vollmar and Tim Smith 3. "Ignoble Row" by Fred Van Lente and Steve Mannion, originally scheduled for this issue, has been rescheduled to appear in CRYPT #7.

Keep those emails and letters coming! Tell us what you thought of our NEW DIRECTION, which is FORWARD TO THE PAST! Send your letters to:

The Crypt-Keeper's Corner
40 Exchange Place, Suite 1308
New York, NY 10005

Or email your RABID REVIEWS to our elderly editor at: saliscup@papercutz.com.

E.C. FANS!

YOU'VE WRITTEN!
YOU'VE E-MAILED!
YOU'VE PHONED!
YOU'VE THREATENED US!
YOU'VE DEMANDED!

(But we're coming out with these collections anyway!)



COLLECTING STORIES BY BILGREY, MR.EXES, VOLLMAR, SMITH 3,
KLEID, MANNION, TODD, MCGREGOR, MURASE, ROMBERGER,
PETRUCHA, and HUDSON!

ON SALE NOW AT BOOKSTORES EVERYWHERE!



PAPERCUTZ

PROUDLY PRESENTS THE SUPER-SCARF.
CREAM-INDUCING SIX H ISSUE OF THE ALL-NEW...

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"JUMPING THE SHARK"

ARIE KAPLAN
WRITER
Mr. EXES
ARTIST
MARK LERER
LETTERER



GHOUUNATICS SEQUENCES

JIM SAI ICRUP

WRITER

RICK PARKER

ARTIST T. E.

ETTERER/COLOR

MARK LERER

LE ERER

STEVE MANNION

COVER ARTIST

JOHN MCCARTHY

PRODUCTION

"A RIPPING GOOD TIME"

JOE R. LANSDALE &
JOHN L. LANSDALE
WRITERS

JAMES ROMBERGER

ART ST

MARGUERITE VAN COOK

COLOR

MARK LERER

ET EREA



M. SALICRUP



TERROR



NO. 6
ALL-NEW!



TALES FROM THE CRYPT

IN THIS ISSUE:

AN ALL-NEW STORY BY

**JOE R. LANSDALE &
JOHN L. LANSDALE**

TEXAS' TOP TERROR WRITERS!

FEATURING...



THE CRYPT-KEEPER



THE OLD WITCH



THE VAULT-KEEPER



7189645506



THE CRYPT OF TERROR





WELCOME BACK TO
"JUMPING THE SHARK!"
WHEN WE LAST LEFT YOU
CAITLIN WAS ABOUT TO
EAT THIS JAR OF
MAGGOTS.

EAT THE MAGGOTS!
EAT THE MAGGOTS!
EAT THE MAGGOTS!



SHE DID
IT!

GULP!

EEEEWWWW!



THE MAN WITH THE DARK SHADOWS IS
PRODUCER LAZLO SLOAN. "JUMPING
THE SHARK" IS HIS BABY.

PHIL, YOU IDIOT! THE NEXT
TIME YOU'RE THIS LATE
WITH MY COFFEE,
YOU'RE FIRED!!

SORRY,
MR. SLOAN.
SIR!



THE MAN WALKING AWAY... WELL, THAT'S ME.
I'M PHIL RAFFERTY, LAZLO'S ASSISTANT.

SOME DAY
THAT STUPID OLD
GOOT'S GOING
TO GET HIS!



















YOU'RE NOT LISTENING! WHAT IF YOU TOOK A COUPLE THAT WAS MADLY IN LOVE AND HAD THEM LIVE FOR SIX MONTHS IN A HOUSE... WHERE IT'S RAINING INDOORS 24/7! HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE THEM TO BE AT EACH OTHER'S THROATS?

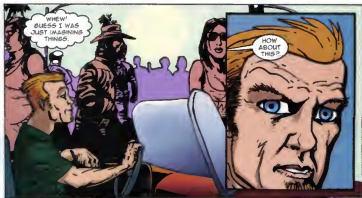


I KNOW WHAT THIS IS. THIS IS SOME KINDA PRACTICAL JOKE, ISN'T IT? WELL, THAT'S A LOUSY LAZLO SLOAN MASK. DOESN'T EVEN LOOK LIKE HIM! NOW TAKE IT OFF!

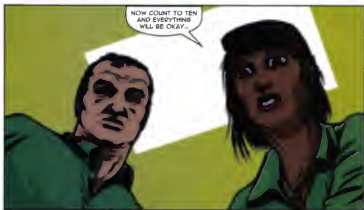












BUT IT WASN'T OKAY
FROM THEN ON, I WAS A
JANGLY BAG OF NERVES.



ALWAYS ON EDGE...

SO THE CONTESTANT STICKS
HIS HEAD IN HERE--WHERE
THE WATERMELON IS--
AND THEN...



FOREVER EXPECTING
TO SEE HIM PEERING
OUT BEHIND EVERY
CORNER

ASHH!

NEVER SEEN ANYONE
GET SO FREAKED OUT
BY A WATERMELON
BEFORE!

SLICE!



IF MY DAYS WERE
ANXIETY-RIDDEN MY
NIGHTS WERE WORSE.



WAS I GOING MAD?









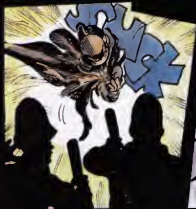




WONDER
WHOSE POCKET
SHE PICKED FOR
THAT WATCH

WHAT ARE ALL
THESE KNOSS
ON THE SIDE

POP!









HEY, BOB

GOT ANYTHING
INTERESTING FOR
ME, HARRY?



NEED A
WATCH?

GOT FOUR

BUT I
GET NONE
OF THEM ARE
VICTORIAN

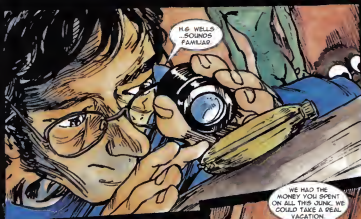


VICTORIAN?

THAT'S RIGHT, AND
IT LOOKS TO HAVE A
BUNCH OF DOO-HICKIES
ON IT. NEVER SEEN ONE
QUITE LIKE IT.



YOU'VE
GOT A
SALE



H.G. WELLS
...SOUNDS
FAMILIAR.

WE HAD THE
MONEY YOU SPENT
ON ALL THIS JUNK. WE
COULD TAKE A REAL
VACATION.



NOW WHAT
HAVE YOU
GOT?



NO,
SULLY!



NO! NO! IT'S
VICTORIAN!

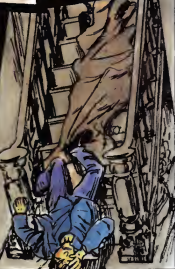
VICTORIAN,
VALEDICTORIAN
WHAT DO I
CARE?!















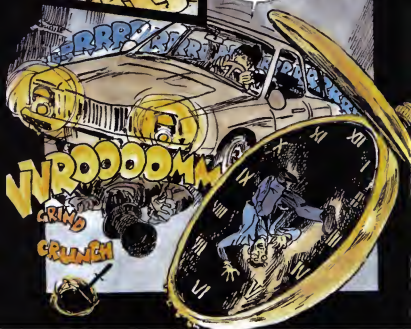






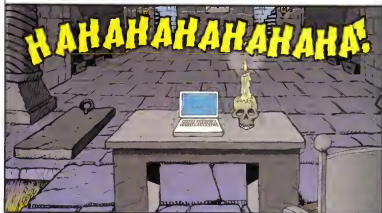


IT'S NOT LIKE
I CAN BRING HIM
BACK...AND I HAVE
THAT CHARITY
PROGRAM.











Whassup, fright-fans? It's the Crypt-Keeper keepin' it surreal in his CRYPT-CRIB! Ready for another round of HORRENDOUS REVIEWS and PAINFUL PRAISE? Seems like some of you have noticed that we're actually LISTENING and RESPONDING to you -- our CREEPY CRITICS! For an EERIE EXAMPLE, the fact that YOU voted "Queen of the Vampires," by Marc (with a "C") Bilgrey and Mr. Exes, your favorite story from TALES FROM THE CRYPT #5 says that you all enjoyed the new DARKER art style.

Don't forget to vote for you FAVE story in this issue, and we'll reveal the winner in our very NEXT ISSUE! No, never-ending camPAINS here, boys and GHOULS! And the winner will be decided by YOU, not some SUPER-DELICATE-TYPES!

For those of you in FLORIDA still waiting for the results on CRYPT #4 poll, believe it or not, it was a TIE between "Crystal Clear" by Don McGregor and James Romberger and "Extra Life" by Neil Kleid and Chris North. At least that's what our official vote-counter "Hangin'" Chad tells us!

If you MISERABLE MISCREANTS missed any of our ROTTING recent issues, check out the paperback and hardcover collections now on sale. The third VENOMOUS VOLUME, entitled "TALES FROM THE CRYPT #3: ZOMBIELICIOUS" also features "Graveyard Shift at the Twilight Gardens" by Rob Vollmar and Tim Smith 3, an EXCLUSIVE all-new tale, never before seen anywhere!

That takes care of OLD BUSINESS, let's see what you DEAD HEADS sent us this time...

HEY TERROR-LOVERS!!!!!!!

Just want to say that TALES FROM THE CRYPT is the best comic EVER! I never read the old comics and I'm not allowed to watch the TV show. I loved the first issue, my favorite story was "Body of Work." In the second issue I loved "The Tenant" and the "Garden." The third issue was great. I didn't like the fourth issue that much.

I have one complaint though, I like the artwork but it belongs in a different comic. If the comic is meant to be scary then the art should be scary.

I have some titles for future issues: "DEATH HOUSE," "THE MONSTER FROM THE SWAMP," "THE ATTIC," and "THEATER OF THE DAMNED."

You ghouls ROCK!!!!!!!

Sincerely,

Colby "Crypt-lover" Nelson-Betz

You ROCK, Colley!!!!!! And let us know what you think of the SCARY art in this issue. If it were any SCARIER our ancient editor would have a coronary!!!!

Subject: TALES FROM THE CRYPT, The Return

Hello Crypt Dwellers,

First, let me say that I was shocked when I saw TALES FROM THE CRYPT was back. I am

too young for the comics, but was an avid fan of the TV series growing up. So once I saw the first issue in stores, I bought it. I was very excited as I opened the book and began to read and I have to say after the first story I was hooked. I love the art style that is being used. I know many people have complained that they would like to see something more modern maybe along the lines of Ben Templesmith, but I feel the art fits the stories. The stories are very good as well. I especially liked the "Extra Life" (issue #4) story. You brought a part of modern pop culture in and I like that. I have bought every issue thus far and look forward to new issues.

Praise aside, issue #5 gave us the "Kid Tested, Mother Approved" story. At first read I thought the art was a bit rough; but after a second read I stay with my stance that the art fits the story. Just a bit rough for my taste.

In short, great work. Keep up the pace. Love the evolution of the art style. Thank you for reviving such an entertaining comic.

Jesse Rosenbaum
Bridgewater, NJ

Hey, they weren't called EC for nothing!

Dear sir,

When I first learned that TALES FROM THE CRYPT was coming back from the dead, I was over the moon with joy! Now, after I reading no. 3, I wish it stayed that way. I have read the stories from the old comics in the reprints and they're great, but what you have done with TALES FROM THE CRYPT this new run is, bad. I know that you're making them for kids, but the stories you are doing are watered down and lame! I'm not saying that you should stop making TALES FROM THE CRYPT. No, far from it! And marketing to kids is okay. We need comics for kids. Kids today are very smart, and know what makes a good story, but don't dumb down yours for them.

Kev
Scotland

We hear you. Kev! Tell us what you think our darker, scarier NEW (OLD) DIRECTION!

Subject: My first TALES FROM THE CRYPT feedback

What's up? Ever since I looked at and subsequently picked up the first issue, I've been hooked on Tales From The Crypt. I've only seen samples of the original EC run, but I wouldn't listen to the critics who say things about the art anyway. The way I see it, the art in this comic series has evolved to cater to audiences of 2008. And the Crypt-Keeper has never looked better (deader?).

So far, your stories have brushed the surface of pop culture (cell phones, toy/comic collecting, goths, American Idol), and you've even done a story reflecting the dangerous times post 9/11 (the suicide bomber one). I can only imagine where your inspiration for such stories lie.

Anyway, keep up the great work, and let's hope no soccer moms try to "pull a Wertham" on you.

Peter Fay
Brooklyn, NY

We hate to tell you this, Peter, but our biggest source for BLOOD-CURLING story ideas are NEWSPAPERS! We figured since no one under the age of fifty reads those antiquated journals of jaw-dropping TERROR anymore that we hit the jackpot! Or in other words, when it comes to all-out SCARY, nothing beats REALITY!

Keep those emails and letters coming - it makes the other GhouLunaics over GREENER with envy! Send letters to:

The Crypt-Keeper's Corner
40 Exchange Place, Suite 1308
New York, NY 10005

Or email your comments to the Old Editor at:
salcirup@papercutz.com

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For a one year (six-issue) subscription to TALES FROM THE CRYPT, just send a check or money order, in US funds only, for \$24.00.

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PAPERCUTZ,

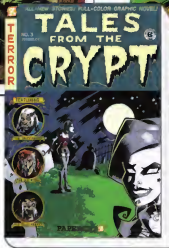
40 Exchange Place,
Suite 1308, New York,
NY 10005. Make

checks payable to NBAM.



E.C. FANS!

YOU'VE WRITTEN!
YOU'VE E-MAILED!
YOU'VE PHONED!
YOU'VE THREATENED US!
YOU'VE DEMANDED!
(BUT WE'RE COMING OUT WITH
THESE COLLECTIONS ANYWAY!)



COLLECTING STORIES BY BILGREY, MR.EXES, GNIWEK, HUDSON, KLEID,
MANNION, MCGREGOR, MURASE, NOETH, PETRUCHA, ROMBERGER,
SMITH 3, TODD, and VOLLMAR!

ON SALE NOW AT BOOKSTORES EVERYWHERE!

WildBlueZero





COVER A



COVER B

PAPERCUTZ

PROUDLY PRESENTS THE ECCENTRIC EFFULGENCE
THAT IS THE EIGHTH EERIE EDITION OF THE ALL-NEW...

TALES FROM THE CRYPT

BASED ON THE CLASSIC EC COMICS SERIES.



RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED TO WILLIAM M. GAINES, AL FELDSTEIN,
REED CRANDALL, JOHNNY CRAIG, JACK DAVIS, WILL ELDER, GEORGE
EVANS, GRAHAM INGELS, JACK KAMEN, BERNIE KRIGSTEIN, HARVEY
KURTZMAN, JOE ORLANDO, GEORGE ROUSSOS, MARIE SEVERIN,
AL WILLIAMSON, AND WALLY WOOD.

"SHE WHO WOULD RULE
THE WORLD"

CHRISTIAN ZANIER
WRITER, ARTIST, LETTERER,
COLORIST

MARVIN MARIANO
COLORIST



THE CRYPT-KEEPER

GHOULUNATICS SEQUENCES

JIM SALICRUP
WRITER

RICK PARKER
ARTIST/TITLE LETTERER/COLOR

MARK LERER
LETTERER

CHRISTIAN ZANIER
COVER A ARTIST

RICK PARKER
COVER B ARTIST

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JAMES ROMBERGER
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THE PUBLISHER

JIM SALICRUP



THE OLD EDITOR

Caricatures by Rick Parker.

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TE
RR
OR



TALENTS

NO. 8
ALL-NEW!

TALES FROM THE CRYPT



1 of 2
COVERS

FEATURING...



THE CRYPT-KEEPER



THE OLD WITCH



THE VAULT-KEEPER

IN THIS ISSUE:
AN ALL-NEW STORY BY
**JOE R. LANSDALE &
JOHN L. LANSDALE**
CHAMPION MOJO STORYTELLERS!




\$3.95 US




THE CRYPT OF TERROR






MY NAME IS DOUG OR DOUGLAS CHANDLER AND I'M ABOUT TO TELL YOU A STORY ABOUT SOMETHING SO EVIL, YET SO BEAUTIFUL, THAT YOU WILL NEVER FORGET IT FOR THE REST OF YOUR DAYS.



IT HAUNTS ME TO THIS VERY DAY. I LIVED IT.



I HADN'T HEARD FROM ALBERT SCOTTSDALE IN YEARS SINCE MEDICAL SCHOOL. HE WAS ONE OF MY PROFESSORS.

A BRILLIANT GENETICIST AND SURGEON. HE WAS MY MENTOR, AND SOON AFTER A FRIEND.

RECENTLY HE CALLED UP AND ASKED ME TO COME TO HIS HOME AND PRIVATE CLINIC TO SEE HIM WITH NO EXPLANATION.



DOUG, COME IN. HOW ARE YOU MY BOY?

HELLO, ALBERT. YOU'RE LOOKING WELL.



AH! WHOA, GIRL, DOWN GIRL.



WAIT
A MIN...

HER
HIP HER LEG,
THEY'RE
WORKING.

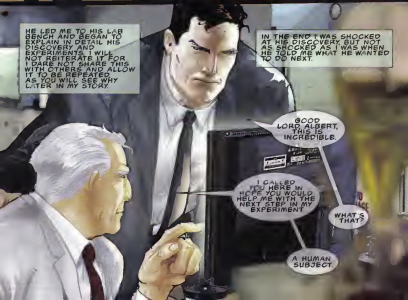
ALBERT,
HOW CAN
THAT BE?



THAT'S
WHY I CALLED
YOU HERE.

I'VE FOUND
A WAY TO ALLOW
A LIVING CREATURE TO
ADAPT TO AUTOMATICALLY
CHANGE AT A GENETIC
LEVEL TO ADAPT TO ANY
PHYSICAL DAMAGE,
INJURY OR
DISEASE.

BUT HOW?



HE LED ME TO HIS LAB
BENCH AND BEGAN TO
EXPLAIN IN DETAIL HIS
DISCOVERY AND
EXPERIMENTS. I WILL
NOT REITERATE IT FOR
I DARE NOT SHARE THIS
WITH OTHERS AND ALLOW
IT TO BE REPEATED
AS YOU WILL SEE WHY
LATER IN MY STORY.

IN THE END I WAS SHOCKED
AT HIS DISCOVERY, BUT NOT
AS SHOCKED AS I WAS WHEN
HE TOLD ME WHAT HE WANTED
TO DO NEXT.

GOOD
LORD, ALBERT,
THIS IS
INCREDIBLE.

I CALLED
YOU HERE IN
HOPE YOU WOULD
HELP ME WITH THE
NEXT STEP IN MY
EXPERIMENT

WHAT'S
THAT?

A HUMAN
SUBJECT



WHAT?!

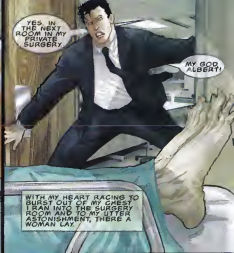
WHAT? ARE YOU MAD?!

CALM YOURSELF DOUG, I HAVE PLANNED AND THOUGHT IT THROUGH.

NOT ENOUGH OBVIOUSLY. YOU VERY WELL KNOW THIS IS NOT ETHICAL NOT TO MENTION ILLEGAL.

NOT IF SHE CONSENTS

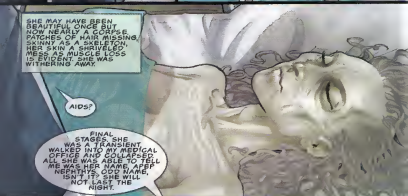
SHE? MY GOD ALBERT, YOU MEAN YOU HAVE SOMEONE IN MIND?



YES, IN THE NEXT ROOM IN MY PRIVATE SURGERY

MY GOD ALBERT!

WITH MY HEART RACING TO BURST OUT OF MY CHEST I RAN INTO THE SURGERY ROOM AND TO MY UTTER ASTONISHMENT, THERE A WOMAN LAY.



SHE MAY HAVE BEEN BEAUTIFUL ONCE BUT NOW NEARLY A CORPSE. PATCHES OF HAIR MISSING, SKINNY AS A SKELETON, HER SKIN A SHRIVELED MESS AS MUSCLE LOSS IS EVIDENT. SHE WAS WITHERING AWAY.

AIDS?

FINAL STAGES. SHE WAS A TRANSIENT, WALKED INTO MY MEDICAL OFFICE AND COLLAPSED. ALL SHE WAS ABLE TO TELL ME WAS HER NAME, APEP NEPHTHYS. ODD NAME, ISN'T IT? SHE WILL NOT LAST THE NIGHT.



MY GOD THIS IS GHASTLY

SHE IS DYING. WE WILL BE SAVING HER LIFE. YOU WISH TO LET HER DIE IF YOU CAN HELP IT? IS THAT ETHICAL?

I SUPPOSE NOT. OKAY, I WILL ASSIST YOU. BUT WE NEED HER WRITTEN CONSENT

I HAVE EVERYTHING PREPARED



MISS NEPHTHYS, ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MY FRIEND AND ONE OF THE BEST AND BRIGHTEST YOUNG DOCTORS TODAY.

I SUPPOSE YOU'RE TRYING TO HOOK ME UP WITH A LITTLE LATE, DON'T YOU THINK DOG?

MISS NEPHTHYS, I...

WELL, HEY HAND-SOME.

HUH... WHAT'S THAT MISS NEPHTHYS?

UMMMM, DON'T BE SO BASHFUL. YOU ARE VERY HANDSOME.

WE WHA? WHAT ARE MY THE... OOPS?

MISS NEPHTHYS, ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE FULLY AWARE OF WHAT DR. SCOTT'S DALE IS ASKING OF YOU?

ODDS? WELL, YOU MAY NOT SURVIVE THE NIGHT, IF IT FAILS NOTHING CHANGES, BUT IF IT WORKS...

YOU SURE KNOW WHAT TO SAY TO CHARM A GIRL.

IN ALL YOURS, HAND-SOME.

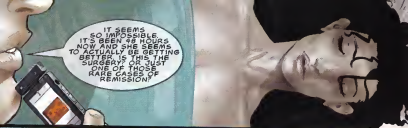
WH WHERE DO I SIGN UP?



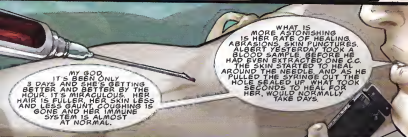
THE SURGERY TOOK 7 HOURS. I COULDN'T BELIEVE HOW ALBERT CAME UP WITH HIS PROCEDURE. IT WAS FRIGHTENING IN ITS GENIUS. I JUST HOPED ALBERT WASN'T OUR MODERN-AGED FRANKENSTEIN.

FOR ALBP WAS TOO BEAUTIFUL TO BE A MONSTER.

OR SO I THOUGHT.



IT SEEMS SO IMPOSSIBLE. IT'S BEEN 48 HOURS NOW AND SHE SEEMS TO ACTUALLY BE GETTING BETTER. IS THIS THE SURGERY? OR JUST ONE OF THOSE RARE CASES OF REMISSION?

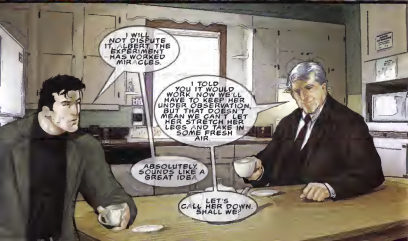


MY GOD, IT'S BEEN ONLY 3 DAYS AND SHE'S GETTING BETTER AND BETTER BY THE HOUR. IT'S MIRACULOUS. HER HAIR IS FULLER, HER SKIN LESS AND LESS GAUNT, COUGHING IS GONE AND HER IMMUNE SYSTEM IS ALMOST AT NORMAL.

WHAT IS MORE ASTONISHING IS HER RATE OF HEALING. ABRASIONS, SKIN PUNCTURES. ALBERT YESTERDAY TOOK A BLOOD SAMPLE BEFORE HE HAD EVEN EXTRACTED ONE C.C. THE SKIN STARTED TO HEAL AROUND THE NEEDLE AND AS HE PULLED THE SYRINGE OUT THE HOLE SEALED UP. WHAT TOOK SECONDS TO HEAL FOR HER, WOULD NORMALLY TAKE DAYS.



IT'S BEEN A WEEK AND TWO DAYS SINCE THE SURGERY AND THE HIV SEEMS TO BE COMPLETELY INERT. A CURE FOR AIDS. IT'S ALMOST UNFATHOMABLE, BUT SHE IS THE PROOF. HOW FAR CAN THIS GO?



I WILL NOT DISPUTE IT, ALBERT. THE EXPERIMENT HAS WORKED. MIRACLES.

I TOLD YOU IT WOULD WORK. NOW WE'LL HAVE TO KEEP HER UNDER OBSERVATION, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE CAN'T LET HER STRETCH HER LEGS AND TAKE IN SOME FRESH AIR.

ABSOLUTELY SOUNDS LIKE A GREAT IDEA.

LET'S CALL HER DOWN. SHALL WE?



I'M
ALREADY
PRESENT
DOCTOR

AH MISS
NEPHTHYS, NICE
TO SEE YOU UP
AND ABOUT.

I FEEL
EXCELLENT.
THANK
YOU.

OH
HELLO, HAND-
SOME..

HELLO, APEP



I HAVE
SOME PLEASANT
NEWS. DOUG HERE
IS GOING TO TAKE
YOU FOR A WALK IN
THE PARK.

OH?

YES,
DOUG IS
DROPPING
ME OFF AT THE
HOSPITAL NEARBY
AND YOU CAN TAG
ALONG. SOUND
GOOD MY
DEAR?

ABSOLUTELY



OKAY YOU
TWO! THE PARK
IS ACROSS THE
STREET.

APEP
YOU JUST GO
AHEAD. I'D LIKE
TO TALK TO DOUG A
MOMENT IF YOU FEEL
TIRED AT ALL. THERE
ARE NICE BENCHES
THERE FOR YOU
TO SIT AND
REST.

GLADLY



APEP
MENTIONED
HAVING NO FAMILY
OR FRIENDS SO I AM
GOING TO CONTINUE
TO LET HER STAY
AT THE HOUSE
FOR A TIME.

THAT'S
A FINE
IDEA.



"WE CAN OBSERVE THE FURTHER EFFECTS OF THE PROCEDURE."



"I CAN PAY HER ROOM AND BOARD AS WELL AS SAY 250 A WEEK, SO IT GIVES HER THE OPPORTUNITY TO START HER NEW LIFE ON A POSITIVE NOTE."



"YOU'RE RIGHT, ALBERT. SHE DESERVES IT. AFTER THE ORDEAL SHE HAS GONE THROUGH AND IT WILL HELP HER FEEL BETTER ABOUT BEING OUR LITTLE GUINEA PIG."



"OKAY, AGREED. SPEAK TO HER ABOUT IT AS YOU TWO WALK THE PARK, AND I'M SURE SHE'LL ACCEPT."



"GO ON, CATCH UP WITH HER BEFORE SHE GETS HERSELF INTO TROUBLE ON HER FIRST DAY OUT."

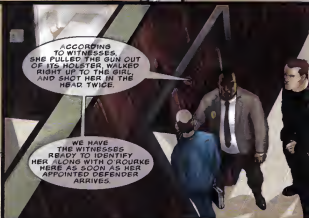




SO
SHE JUST
TOOK OFFICER
O'ROURKE'S GUN
AND...

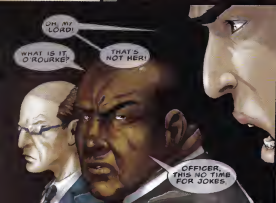


...SHOT
A WOMAN
DOWN.



ACCORDING
TO WITNESSES,
SHE PULLED THE GUN OUT
OF ITS HOLSTER, WALKED
RIGHT UP TO THE GIRL,
AND SHOT HER IN THE
HEAD TWICE.

WE HAVE
THE WITNESSES
READY TO IDENTIFY
HER ALONG WITH O'ROURKE
HERE AS SOON AS HER
APPOINTED DEFENDER
ARRIVES.



OH, MY
LORD!

WHAT IS IT,
O'ROURKE?

THAT'S
NOT HER!

OFFICER,
THIS NO TIME
FOR JOKES.



SIR,
I'M TELLING
YOU THAT IS NOT
THE WOMAN I
ARRESTED





MY GOD,
YOU MEAN YOU
DID MURDER THAT
WOMAN?!

MURDER?!

YOU
CALL IT
MURDER? DO YOU
CALL A TIGRESS
KILLING AN ELEK,
MURDER? DO YOU CALL
A FALCON KILLING
A RODENT
MURDER?

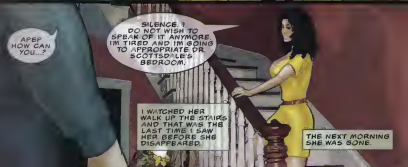
WHAT
ARE YOU
SAYING?

WHAT
I'M SAYING,
HANDSOME, IS
THAT IT'S THE ORDER
OF THE SPECIES. SHE WAS
AS BEAUTIFUL AS I AND I
DIDN'T LIKE IT. SHE WAS
WEAK, I WAS STRONG,
I WAS THE VICTOR.
SHE WAS MY
INFERIOR.



SO YOU
ARE SUPERIOR
THEN?

YOU
SHOULD KNOW,
HANDSOME. YOU
HELPED MAKE ME
WHAT I AM
NOW.



APEP
HOW CAN
YOU...?

SILENCE. I
DO NOT WISH TO
SPEAK OF IT ANYMORE
I'M TIRED AND I'M GOING
TO APPROPRIATE DR.
SCOTTSDALE'S
BEDROOM.

I WATCHED HER
WALK UP THE STAIRS
AND THAT WAS THE
LAST TIME I SAW
HER BEFORE SHE
DISAPPEARED.

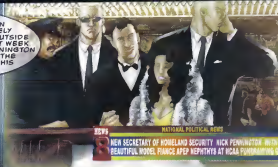
THE NEXT MORNING
SHE WAS GONE.

WE READ ABOUT HER EXPLOITS IN THE NEWS, AND FOUR YEARS LATER, WE SAW HER ON TELEVISION.

BEHIND ME IS THE WHITE HOUSE, WHERE NEWLY APPOINTED SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY, FORMER US ATTORNEY GENERAL NICK PENNINGTON IS IN CONFERENCE WITH THE PRESIDENT.



HERE WE SEE NICK PENNINGTON HIMSELF WITH HIS LOVELY FIANCE, APEP NEPHTHYS, OUTSIDE A BENEFIT GALA HELD LAST WEEK. AS YOU ALREADY KNOW, PENNINGTON WAS APPOINTED AFTER THE MYSTERIOUS DEATH OF HIS PREDECESSOR.



SHE'S BEEN MARRIED THREE TIMES IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS. TWO HUSBANDS MYSTERIOUSLY DIE AND ONE COMMITTED TO AN INSTITUTION, ALL LEAVING THEIR FORTUNES TO HER.

AMASSING THIS GREAT WEALTH, BUT TO WHAT END?

MOST DEFINITELY NOT A COINCIDENCE.

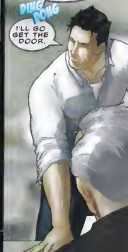
WITH HER NEW INVOLVEMENT WITH THIS NICK PENNINGTON PERSON, OBVIOUSLY SOMETHING THAT MAY THREATEN THE FREE WORLD.

IT'S JUST HARD TO THINK THAT I...

DON'T BLAME YOURSELF YOU HAD NO IDEA THIS WOULD HAPPEN. IT'S ALMOST TOO UNBEL...

DING DONG

I'LL GO GET THE DOOR.



APEP!

YOU
KNOW I
HAVE
I...

WHAT
ABOUT YOUR
FIANCE?

NICK?
WE'RE GOING
FOR A CONFERENCE IN
IRAG TO MEET WITH THE
PRIME MINISTER. MORE
TALK ON THE NEW
DEMOCRACY.

FUNNY
WORD IN A WORLD
LIKE THIS, ISN'T IT?
PEACE IS NOT IN HUMAN
NATURE. I WENT ON AHEAD.
HE WILL CALL FOR
ME HERE IN THE
MORNING.

THAT'S NOT
WHAT I MEANT. ARE
YOU IN LOVE WITH HIM?
DID YOU EVEN FEEL
FOR ANY OF THE
OTHERS?

BEFORE
YOU DESTROYED
THEM?

IF I WANTED
LOVE I WOULD
COME TO YOU, HAND-
SOME. DON'T LOOK SO
BASHFUL. HOW COULD I
NOT NOTICE THE
WAY YOU LOOK
AT ME?

THEN
WHAT IS
IT? THE
MONEY?

MONEY?

WHAT'S
A GODDESS
NEED WITH
MONEY?

GODDESS?
IS THAT WHAT
YOU ARE?

THAT'S WHAT
YOU MADE ME. I'M
THE MOST POWERFUL WOMAN
IN THE WORLD. THANKS TO YOU
AND DR. SCOTTSDALE. I NOW DICTATE
LIFE AND DEATH. I HAVE POWERS
BEYOND NORMAL MAN. IS THAT
NOT WHAT MAKES
A GODDESS?

NICK
PENNINGTON, HE
IS SUPPOSED TO BE
SOMEONE SO IMPORTANT. IN
CHARGE OF KEEPING AMERICA
SAFE. BUT TO ME HE IS ONLY A
PUPPET AND I PULL THE STRINGS.
WITH HIM I'LL HOLD THE FATE
OF THE WORLD IN MY
HANDS.

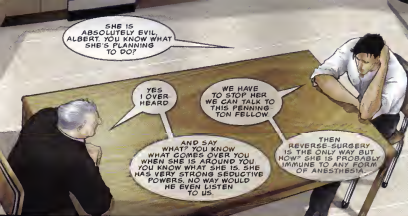
IS THAT
WHAT YOU ARE
AFTER? THE
WORLD?

IS IT NOT
WHAT A GODDESS
IS MEANT FOR? THE
WORLD WILL BOW DOWN
TO ME. WILL YOU RULE
AT MY SIDE, HAND-
SOME?

APEP
YOU'RE
EVIL.

EVIL? TOO
BAD YOU HADN'T
REALIZED THAT WHEN
YOU DECIDED TO HELP DR.
SCOTTSDALE. APEP, IN MY NATIVE
LANGUAGE, IS THE VERY PERSONI-
FICATION OF EVIL. MY MOTHER
KNEW IT THE DAY HER EYES
FIRST MET MINE. SHE NAMED ME
AT THAT VERY MOMENT WHEN
SHE WHISPERED THE
WORD APEP.

ANYWAY,
NICK WILL COME FOR
ME IN THE MORNING. I
NEED TO REST UNTIL THEN. I'M
GOING TO DR. SCOTTSDALE'S
ROOM FOR THE NIGHT. MY
OFFER STILL STANDS,
HANDSOME.



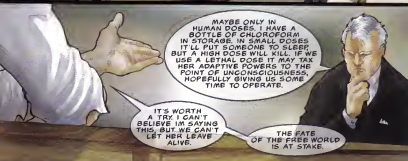
SHE IS
ABSOLUTELY EVIL,
ALBERT. YOU KNOW WHAT
SHE'S PLANNING
TO DO?

YES
I OVER
HEARD

WE HAVE
TO STOP HER
WE CAN TALK TO
THIS PENNING-
TON FELLOW

AND SAY
WHAT? YOU KNOW
WHAT COMES OVER YOU
WHEN SHE IS AROUND YOU
YOU KNOW WHAT SHE IS. SHE
HAS VERY STRONG SEDUCTIVE
POWERS. NO WAY WOULD
HE EVEN LISTEN
TO US.

THEN
REVERSE-SURGERY
IS THE ONLY WAY BUT
HOW? SHE IS PROBABLY
IMMUNE TO ANY FORM
OF ANESTHESIA.



MAYBE ONLY IN
HUMAN DOSES. I HAVE A
BOTTLE OF CHLOROFORM
IN STORAGE. IN SMALL DOSES
IT'LL PUT SOMEONE TO SLEEP,
BUT A HIGH DOSE WILL KILL. IF WE
USE A LETHAL DOSE IT MAY TAX
HER ADAPTIVE POWERS TO THE
POINT OF UNCONSCIOUSNESS,
HOPEFULLY GIVING US SOME
TIME TO OPERATE.

IT'S WORTH
A TRY. I CAN'T
BELIEVE I'M SAYING
THIS, BUT WE CAN'T
LET HER LEAVE
ALIVE.

THE FATE
OF THE FREE WORLD
IS AT STAKE.

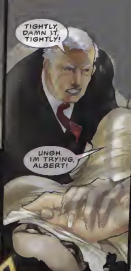


OKAY,
NOW PUT IT
OVER HER FACE. I'LL
HELP HOLD HER
DOWN.

AT THAT
DOSAGE IT SHOULD
ONLY TAKE A FEW
MOMENTS TO TAKE
EFFECT.



ugh...



TIGHTLY,
DAMN IT,
TIGHTLY!

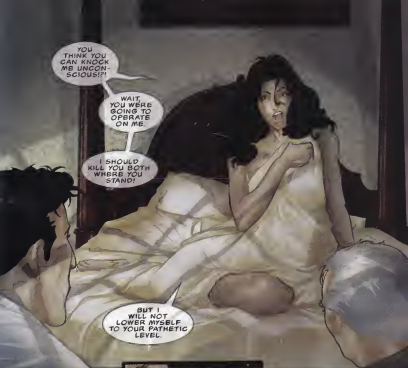
UNGH,
I'M TRYING,
ALBERT!



MY GOD!
SHE'S GETTING...
ENGH... STRONGER! HER
STRENGTH... UNGH... IS
ADAPTING TO M... MATCH
MINE! I CAN'T HOLD
IT MUCH LONGER!



YOU FOOLS!



YOU
THINK YOU
CAN KNOCK
ME UNCON-
SCIOUS?!

WAIT,
YOU WERE
GOING TO
OPERATE
ON ME.

I SHOULD
KILL YOU BOTH
WHERE YOU
STAND!

BUT I
WILL NOT
LOWER MYSELF
TO YOUR PATHETIC
LEVEL.



IS THIS
WHAT YOU'RE
LOOKING FOR,
DOCTOR?

WAS
THIS PLAN
'B'?

WERE
YOU GOING
TO SLIT MY
THROAT
WITH IT?



WE'LL
LOOK.

WATCH
HOW YOUR
FUTILE ATTEMPT
WOULD HAVE
FAILED.



THERE!
YOU
SEE?!

NOW
GET OUT! LEAVE
ME TO MY SLUMBER.
NICK WILL BE CALLING
FOR ME IN THE
MORNING.



MY GOD,
DOUG, DID YOU
SEE HER EYES? SHE
IS NO LONGER HUMAN. SHE
IS BEYOND OUR STOPPING
HER. SHE IS INVINCIBLE.
WILL NOTHING
STOP HER??

CARBON
DIOXIDE.

OF COURSE
YES, A ROOM
FILLED WITH THE GAS
WOULD BE FATAL TO ANY
AVERAGE PERSON AND WE
NEED NOT MAKE CONTACT
WITH HER TO ADMIN-
ISTER IT.

WILL IT
WORK?

IT IS
OUR LAST OPTION.
IF IT DOESN'T WE WON'T
HAVE TO WORRY ANY LONGER.
SHE'LL SURELY KILL US
THIS TIME.

WE FILL THE
BEDROOM WITH
IT AND IT'LL HOPE-
FULLY CHOKE HER INTO
UNCONSCIOUSNESS. HER
ADAPTIVE ABILITIES
WON'T KNOW WHAT
HIT THEM.

I HAVE
A COLLEAGUE
WHO CAN SUPPLY US TWO
TANKS. I'LL HAVE IT SENT
TO US IMMEDIATELY.



OKAY, THE
DOOR CRACK
AND THE VENTS
INSIDE ARE
SEALED.

...AND
WITH GAULKING
AROUND THE
OUTSIDE OF THE
WINDOW.

THE
ROOM'S AS
AIRTIGHT AS
IT'S GOING TO
GET

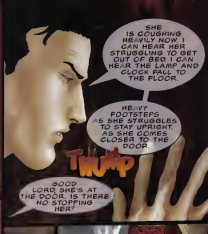
ANY
MOMENT NOW,
DOUG, THE GAS SHOULD
BE FILLING THE ROOM
AND SOON START
TAKING EFFECT
ON APER



THERE SHOULD BE ENOUGH CONCENTRATION OF CARBON DIOXIDE INSIDE BY NOW WHERE THE AVERAGE PERSON WOULD SURELY BE DEAD

CAN'T HEAR ANYTHING YET.

WAIT. SHE'S STARTING TO COUGH.



SHE IS COUGHING HEAVILY NOW. I CAN HEAR HER STRUGGLING TO GET OUT OF BED. I CAN HEAR THE LAMP AND CLOCK FALL TO THE FLOOR.

HEAVY FOOTSTEPS AS SHE STRUGGLES TO STAY UPRIGHT. AS SHE COMES CLOSER TO THE DOOR.

THUMP

GOOD LORD SHE'S AT THE DOOR. IS THERE NO STOPPING HER?



THUMP

DO NOT LISTEN TO HER, DOUG. FIGHT OFF HER INFLUENCE.



DOUG, PLEASE. DON'T KILL ME.

KOFF PLEASE, I'M NOT REALLY EVIL. JUST A CONFUSED CHILD.
KOFF KOFF KOFF KOFF

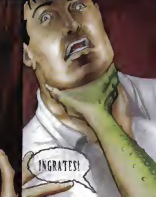
KOFF DOUG, I LOVE YOU PLEASE.
KOFF



THUMP

KOFF IF YOU LOVE ME PLEASE SAVE ME.
KOFF KOFF KOFF

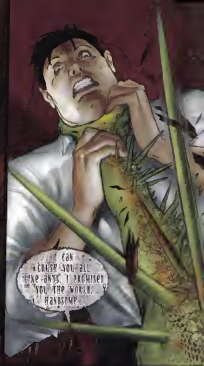
NO!! I WON'T LISTEN!



INGRATES!



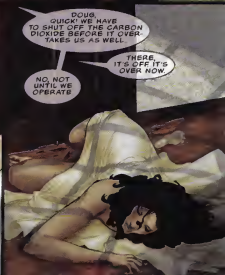
GO! PATRICK!
TOMANS! YOU HAVE
NO IDEA WHAT YOU ARE
DEALING WITH.



THE CAN
CRASH YOU ALL
ONE HANDS. I PROMISED
YOU THE WORLD.
HANDSOME.



AND
THIS IS HOW
YOU... R RE
PA



DOUG,
QUICK! WE HAVE
TO SHUT OFF THE CARBON
DIOXIDE BEFORE IT OVER-
TAKES US AS WELL.

NO, NOT
UNTIL WE
OPERATE

THERE,
IT'S OFF IT'S
OVER NOW.



THIS IS HOW THE STORY ENDS.

WE WERE ABLE TO DO THE PROCEDURE WITHOUT INCIDENT.

SHE REVERTED BACK TO HER ORIGINAL STATE. THE AIDS HAD COMPLETELY OVERCOME HER.

IT WAS FOR THE BETTER. WE DID SAVE MANKIND.

THEN WHY DID I FEEL SO BAD?

WELL, SHE WAS RIGHT ABOUT ONE THING.

I WAS IN LOVE WITH HER. AND MAYBE IN HER OWN TWISTED WAY SHE LOVED ME.

I ALMOST TOOK HER UP ON HER OFFER TO RULE BY HER SIDE.

IT WOULDN'T HAVE WORKED OUT ANYWAY.

AFTER ALL, I AM ONLY HUMAN.

KLACK

HAI! SEE WHAT HAPPENS
WHEN A GAL TRUSTS
THE WRONG
TWO GUYS!?



BUT STILL
--THAT
TALE TRULY
INSPIRED
ME!



FOLKS ARE ALWAYS SCHEMIN' TO HOLD OTHERS
DOWN! LET ME TELL YOU, EVEN THE CRYPT-KEEPER
AND THE VAULT-KEEPER ARE PART OF A GHOUL-
OLD BOYS CLUB THAT LOVES KEEPING A GOOD
WOMAN DOWN! AFTER ALL, THEY'VE GOT
CRYPTS AND VAULTS TO KEEP --
WHAT DO I HAVE?!



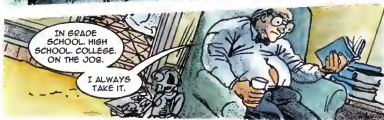
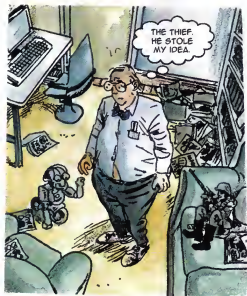
I NEED TO
WHIP UP A BATCH OF
DL' DDC SCOTTSDALE'S
SPECIAL POTIONS! BUT I'LL
NEED TWO SPECIAL
INGREDIENTS!

BUT POWER-HUNGRY
PREDATORS DON'T JUST PREY UPON
WOMEN! ANYONE THEY DEEM TO BE WEAK IS FAIR
GAME! TAKE STANLEY POTTS, FOR EXAMPLE! ALL HE
HAD WAS A SIMPLE
DREAM, AND AN
OPPORTUNISTIC CO-
WORKER STOLE IT!
IT'S ALL LOVINGLY
LAID OUT IN...

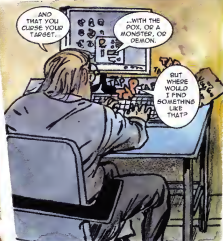
**VIRTUAL
HOO DOO**











MONSTER neighborhood



START

I'LL USE HER. BLOODY CROCKER.

I'LL JUST GIVE THE SPELL TO HER TO DELIVER.

YOU GOT THAT, BLOODY?

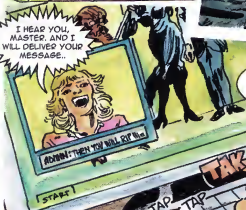


CLICK



TAP TAP TAP

I HEAR YOU, MASTER, AND I WILL DELIVER YOUR MESSAGE..



ADAM: THEN YOU WILL RIP ME

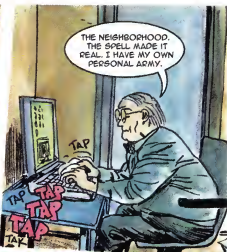
START

AND MAYBE I'LL ATTACH A VIRUS TO IT, JUST TO MAKE IT SPECIAL.



TAP TAP TAP

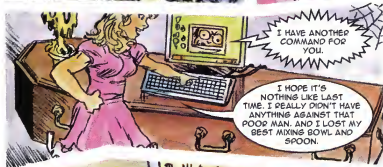














HELLO, IN
THERE. WELCOMING
COMMITTEE.

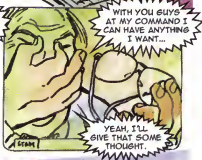
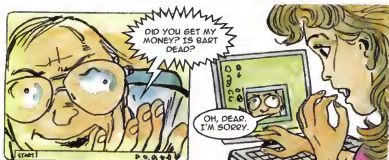


SIDNEY
WANTS HIS
MONEY.



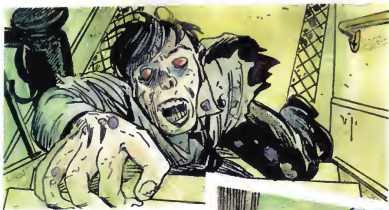














YOU KNOW, IT SURE WAS NICE OF THE OLD WITCH TO INVITE US INTO THIS HOT TUB! MAYBE WE MISJUDGED HER!

I COULD BE MISERABLY MISTAKEN, BUT I'M STARTING TO SUSPECT THIS AIN'T NO HOT TUB! THAT IF WE DON'T GET OUT NOW - WE'RE SOUP!

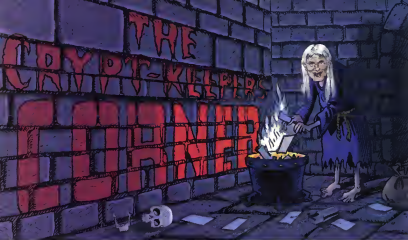
LIKE ANYONE WOULD WANT A BOWL OF CREAM OF CRYPT-KEEPER SOUP!

YOU EVER-GAGGING GHOULS ARE VITAL INGREDIENTS IN MY SPECIAL POWER-POTION!

>GASP<
>CHOKE<

AS MUCH AS TO LOVE TO STAY AND BECOME SECRET SAUCE. WITCHE-POO, MY PALE SKIN IS GETTING ALL PRUNEY - AND I'M SURE YOU DON'T WANT PRUNES IN YOUR RECIPE!

SO, LET'S MEET AGAIN NEXT TIME, KIDNIES, IN TALES FROM THE CRYPT #3! AND REMEMBER, DON'T UPSET ANY WITCHES IF YOU WANT TO STAY OUT OF HOT WATER! HEY, I'M DYING HERE!



Gruesome greetings, my fellow Americans! It's me, your non-political Crypt-Keeper, with a somewhat SHRUNKEN SELECTION of FEARLESS FEEDBACK from our CREEPY CONSTITUENTS. Seems like our usually tight-lipped editorial types are eager to spout off on a topic we're super-sensitive about around these parts. Ironic, isn't it? In order for them to talk about censorship, we have to silence a few of our EEINDISH fans from expressing their un-DYING admiration for their favorite HORROR comicbook!

But while the POWERS-THAT-BE around here may be a benevolent dictatorship, we've always run this letters column as a true DEMON-ocracy, er, I mean, democracy, letting you the rotten readers VOTE every issue for your favorite stories. It was a close race this time around with "Ignoble Rot" by writer Fred Van Lente and artist Mort Todd just squeaking past "Moonlight Sonata" by writers Joe and John Lauzdale and artist Chris North. Not much of a surprise really, as ZOMBIES are hotter than ever these days.

I'd normally tell you all about our fifth frightful collection of TALES FROM THE CRYPT stories published in paperback and hardcover by Papercutz, but that'll just have to wait till next issue. Or you can quickly check out the ad on our back cover. But if we're going to squeeze any mail in, we better do so now...

Dear Crypt-Keeper,

I was recently at my local mall, and in the center plaza was a temporary comic vendor. He had all kinds of comic collectibles. I walked straight up to him and asked him for the EC comics. He pulled down a stack of EC originals. It was amazing. He even had THE CRYPT OF TERROR issue two. I told him I wanted to buy them so bad but I didn't have the money. He pointed me to a box of horror comics with some 1990 reprints. I scratched the only two CRYPTS he had. Even though the new ones are nothing like them, I still love them. I would be so happy if you could revive THE HAUNT OF FEAR and THE VAULT OF HORROR. Maybe even make

them for a more mature audience...?) Or maybe you could reprint originals. Even if you don't, I'm still going to keep buying TALES FROM THE CRYPT. Congratulations and thank you for reviving a series I grew up on.

Sincerely,
Johnny Bailey

Tell me, Johnny, did the Vault-Keeper or the The Old Witch put you up to this? Those two will stoop to any level to get their mag's back! And in case you didn't know, all of the original EC comics are being reprinted as beautiful big full-color hardcover books by the geeks over at Gemstone Publishing. You can buy the first few years of TALES FROM THE CRYPT (as well as THE HAUNT OF FEAR, THE VAULT OF HORROR, and many more) for a mere \$49.95 per volume - a lot cheaper than trying to get the original back issues!

Keep those emails and letters coming - we get so lonely here in the Crypt of Terror! Send letters to:

The Crypt-Keeper's Corner
40 Exchange Place, Suite 1308
New York, NY 10005

Or email your comments to the Old Editor at:
salicup@papercutz.com

And be sure to visit papercutz.com for the latest TALES FROM THE CRYPT news!

SUBSCRYPTIONS!

For a one year (six-issue) subscription to TALES FROM THE CRYPT, just send a check or money order, in US funds only, for \$24.00. Send to: SUBSCRYPTIONS, PAPERUTZ, 40 Exchange Place, Suite 1308, New York, NY 10005. Make checks payable to NBM. Or call 1-800-886-1223. MC, VISA, and AMEX accepted.

A SPECIAL EDITORIAL

BY CATHY GAINES MIFSUD

Before we begin, we need to make something very clear. **TALES FROM THE CRYPT** is not endorsing any political candidates or parties. We respect our readers' intelligence, and for those of you old enough to vote, we encourage you to do so for the candidates of your choice.

Nor are we attacking any candidates. This issue's alternate cover, featuring Gov. Sarah Palin, is our version of a political cartoon. It's simply expressing our reaction whenever we hear anything about book banning -- it's truly frightening to us. Also, and this is very important, it's very unclear whether those early reports about Sarah Palin, looking into banning books from a library back when she was the mayor of Wasilla, Alaska, are true or not. We, of course, certainly hope that they're indeed untrue.

Why is book banning frightening to us? Surely, we can't possibly object to anyone keeping objectionable material out of the hands of impressionable children. Well...

You see, from 1950 to 1956 my father, William M. Gaines, published the original **TALES FROM THE CRYPT** comicbooks, as well as the rest of the entire EC line of comics, which included **THE HAUNT OF FEAR**, **THE VAULT OF HORROR**, **WEIRD SCIENCE**, **SHOCK SUSPENSESTORIES**, **TWO-FISTED TALES**, **WEIRD FANTASY**, **WEIRD SCIENCE-FANTASY**, **CRIME SUSPENSESTORIES**, and one called **MAD**. Dad hired the very best writers, artists, and editors in the field, and even now, over 50 years later, those comics are still considered to be shining examples of some of the best comics ever created.

Unfortunately, during the height of the success of the EC horror titles, there was a movement to ban these comics, based on the misguided notion that they were somehow turning children into juvenile delinquents. Just like some politicians today try to blame video games and rap music for all sorts of social ills and for being a negative influence, back then EC comics were the target. There were newspaper and magazine articles, investigations, and finally, a Comics Code was created, a code that meant the end of almost the entire EC line of comics. Only **MAD**, which was turned into a magazine, managed to survive.

Now, if you actually look at and read those old EC comics, the only thing that might actually shock you is how incredibly tame they are by today's standards. Take a look at the hardcover collections of **TALES FROM THE CRYPT** published by Gemstone, and look closely at those stories, and you'll see that you'll be hard-pressed to find a single drop of blood. Sure, the stories were scary -- that's what they were intended to be. But they were scary in the same way that classic fairy tales are scary, or even stories from the Bible. Usually the stories were about someone who did something wrong, and how their victims were somehow avenged.

Now, does that mean we believe that every book ever published should be available to any reader of any age? Of course not! Certainly every bookstore and library has

the responsibility to make sure no unsuitable material ever winds up in the hands of children. And certainly, every bookseller has the right to decide to sell or not sell whatever they choose. The challenge is always determining exactly what is and isn't suitable for children.

When we decided to relaunch **TALES FROM THE CRYPT** with Papercutz, there were fans of the original comic that were surprised that we chose a publisher known for their all-ages graphic novels. Those fans wanted a new **TALES FROM THE CRYPT** series that would push the boundaries of modern horror, going places no **TALES FROM THE CRYPT** comic had ever gone before. Now, there's certainly nothing wrong with that, but we decided to go with Papercutz because we wanted **TALES FROM THE CRYPT** to be what the original comic was always meant to be, a scary comic for all-ages, with the very best writing and artwork possible. So, here we are, over fifty years after the original **TALES FROM THE CRYPT** comic was launched, and we're back trying to create a comic that we hope folks fifty years from now will still be talking about.

We certainly understand the desire to protect children from unsuitable material, but we don't believe that banning books is the answer. As the situation exists today, both librarians and booksellers act very responsibly to assure that children are not exposed to anything objectionable. Protecting children, is usually the excuse given when another agenda may be at work. As far as we can tell, teachers, parents, librarians, and booksellers are doing a great job of making sure children are indeed protected. What usually seems to be behind banning books is an attempt to repress ideas that may offer alternative political views. This is not only un-American -- blatantly violating the very concept of free speech -- but it is assuming that people are unable to come to their own informed conclusions about controversial subjects. And how could they, if only one side of a debate is presented, while literature expressing opposing views are suppressed? Banning books represents a lack of faith in the intelligence of our fellow citizens to think for themselves.

In 1990, the Comic Book Legal Defense Fund, was incorporated as a non-profit charitable organization to fight censorship and defend the first amendment rights of comic book professionals throughout the United States. If you support free speech and love comicbooks, may we suggest you consider joining this noble organization? For full details, go to www.cbldef.org. I only wish they were around when my father could've used their help.

With all that said, we still like to believe that we're living in a world that recognizes that children love a good scary story, and that if it's told responsibly with good taste, it sparks their imaginations and they become the next generation of such amazing creators as George Lucas, Stephen Spielberg, Stephen King, and R.L. Stine -- all former EC comics readers.

*Thank You,
Cathy Gaines Mifsud
President William M. Gaines, Agent, Inc.*

E.C. FANS!

YOU'VE WRITTEN!

YOU'VE E-MAILED!

YOU'VE PHONED!

YOU'VE THREATENED US!

YOU'VE DEMANDED!

(BUT WE'RE COMING OUT WITH
THESE COLLECTIONS ANYWAY!)



COLLECTING STORIES BY BILGREY, CABRAL, MR.EXES, GNIEWEK,
HUDSON, KAPLAN, KLEID, LANSDALE, LOBDELL, MANNION,
MARTINEZ, MCGREGOR, MURASE, NOETH, PETRUCHA, ROMBERGER,
SIMMONS, SMITH 3, TODD, VELILLA and VOLLMAR!

ON SALE NOW AT BOOKSTORES EVERYWHERE!

WildBlueZero

